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2008 OLYMPIC
PROFILE P.53**

**TIPPING IS
EVIL**
P.58

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**GREAT
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EXTRAORDINARY
CANADIANS**
P.34

**VISITING
CONRAD
by
BARBARA
AMIEL**
P.14

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**Scholars are casting new
doubt on the divinity of
Christ—and even wondering
if the church would be better
off without Him P.38**

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THIS WEEK

Interview

16-THIRD TIME'S A CHARM
Martin Pettigrew talks to PQ Leader Pauline Marois about referendum and a plan for Quebec citizenship

Column

10-00 I HEAR \$20,000?
Robert Repasch on why he'd like to see a vote for himself and how much a photo of Salimane Dan will fetch you

12-ANDREW COYNE

Instead of skirting the race issue in a recent speech Barack Obama had the smarts to really talk about it

13-PAUL WELLS

The Liberal-Conservative coalition may be hard to spot, but it's alive and kicking

14-BABARA AMEL

Visiting Canada plus what Florio Spitzer's downhill says about U.S. law

Wellness

16-02 STELMACH'S WAR
The Tory plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions could be brewing up a federal-provincial clash with Alberta

20-THE DAYCARE OYDCE

The older ever private child care in the country is heating up

22-THE 5000 OLD BOYS

Publicans used to have their stealing headlines with their ideas off when New they're just really boring

23-QAO TO THE RESCUE

The reputation of a family centre in Regina goes up in smoke. Cowtown proves too big a hurdle for Mahabadi Robinson's Canadian conductor's father since the day at his son's 550 debut

World

24-THE FUTURE OF IRAQ
It's been five years since the war in Iraq began. What's been achieved? What's in store for the next five years?

MACLEAN'S

VOLUME 128 NUMBER 12, MARCH 31, 2008 - SINCE 1905

2 From the Editors 4 Mail Bag

9 Seven Days

MARCH 31-APRIL 7, 2008



Wyle Street's 60 years up for the summer's Beijing Olympics

THE BACK PAGES

30-Help

Andrew Coyne's argument for abolishing the tip

60-Film

A movie about soldiers that will make Jerry Springer proud

63-TV

What happened to the easy weather girl?

66-Steps

Europe's sex stations are far juicier

68-Music

Looking for the latest hit? Don't go to the local library

69-Taste

A pizza that you won't find on your average menu

69-Review

A Vancouver spa celebrates the new "fit" thing—having babies

71-Forelook

A useful primer on how the U.S. got itself into this whole credit markets mess anyway

70-The End

David Borden: Player 190-2006

ON THE COVER: Would the church be better off without Jesus?

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WWW.MACLEANS.CA

World (continued)

26-BROOY VIDEO, NAH
An instructional video created by a former cop shows you how to avoid getting busted for possession

26-SEX FOR RENT

A trend cross in Manila in Pampanga, France's dirty landlords, a stolen child fights back in Argentina

Business

30-GAS SUZZLERS REJOICE

Free gas about driving again: make your ecological footprint disappear through carbon offset providers

33-MIND POWER

A Vancouver-based company is educating China's future generation of women and business leaders

33-PAKING IT

A golden opportunity for co-located: make money loans that are good for some people but not others

History

34-CANADIAN PRIDE

Exploring great Canadians of the past through the eyes of contemporary writers

36-BEATERSROOM TALE

The story of Max Auker, the newspaper baron from New Brunswick who revolutionized the print news industry

Faith

38-COVER STORY

JESUS'S REBIRTH

A new view of Jesus has been unfolding over the past decades. Can the historical Jesus be reconciled with 2,000 years of religious history and myth?

Sports

53-BEIJING HOPEFULS

The first in a series profiling Canadian Olympians. First up: gymnast Kyle Shewfelt fighting his way back from a devastating injury

Newsweek

56-BLAHE IT ON VEGAS

Alberta's malaise: what to do about a former lawyer blames her addiction on the casino. Sam Gambi's offer to drive home drunk celebrities



BEAVER'S TALE: Newspaper magnate and politician Lord Beaverbrook in London in 1928

Extraordinary lives

From countries have too much history, prime minister William Lyon Mackenzie King once noted, Canada has too much geography. And while we can't do much about the size of our country, we can erasely improve on the volume of our history. It's been 100 years since the people has been offered a new comprehensive sense of popular Canadian biographies. The 1908 *Masters of Canada* series covered 27 notable Canadians from Samuel de Champlain to Sir John A. Macdonald and married, in many ways, the birth of Canada's appreciation for itself.

In April, Penguin Group (Canada) takes up this challenge once with its Canadian history Canadian series. Over the next three years, Penguin will release biographies of 20 notable Canadians ranging from Big Bear to Nellie McClung to René Lévesque—with particular emphasis on the 20th century. Making this series unique, each book is to be written by an equally notable Canadian novelist or author chosen for his or her particular connection to the subject. Among the first: Jean Unghart, M.G. Vassan and Douglas Coupland. These volumes won't be ponderous academic works, but lively and important stories told by talented writers.

Mackenzie is pleased to play a role in this important effort by supplying each new book as it appears. The first, to be found on page 36, is a nonchalant David Anderson's profile of New Brunswick-born novelist Baron Leventhal. The book has a tone of grace and belonging. Richards, well known for his fictional musings of the Maraschia in space,

grew up just two blocks from Beaverbrook's home and will undoubtedly the same offering on outside that haunted Beaverbrook's years, despite his great financial success.

The biographies will both inform Canada's sense of collective history and bring greater understanding to our modern experiences. When complete, this collection of fascinating lives from Canada's past should easily stand as a model to our extensive geography.

Mackenzie's innovative ranking of Canada's most dangerous cities, unveiled last issue, touched off a wide range of responses from across the country. Some civic boasters in cities that find poorly researched to find reasons to disagree with our findings, which were based on independent per capita violent crime rates from Statistics Canada.

In Regina, a professor of human justice complained that our study ignored traffic accidents, which are dangerous too, he said. The mayor of Bradford, Ont., said he felt "unsafe" by evidence showing his city had the highest rate of violent crime in Ontario. The Edmonton Sun complained our work was "excessively journalistic."

And yet not every poor performer had a beef with our numbers. Despite Surrey, B.C., ranking as the 14th most dangerous city in Canada, Mayor Dianne Worn saw the fact her city was not in the top 10 as a validation of local crime-fighting efforts. "I am so pleased. It speaks volumes," she said.

Statistics Canada can never provide the whole story on crime. But taking objective or following reasons to disbelieve the data will not make any city safer. ■

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'Latimer may have felt justified, but I wonder whose pain he was really trying to kill'

SLEEPING SICKNESS

INSOMNIA: A CULTURAL HISTORY author Eluned Staines doesn't see a grim example of a person doing unwarranted cruelty from psycho-killer Dr. (Interview, March 27). In this article, Staines' interview stops at about seven in the Middle Ages. Present versions, and Calverton in general, is having a negative influence on people's sleep patterns. I would bet that my rural Dutch Canadian forebears were generally woken from hard physical labour to lay awake at night. If the common people couldn't sleep, it was most likely because some of them had empty bellies or because of widespread social inequity. Waning religion is a popular game but not a valid one.

Amy van Arman, Hutton, Kentville, N.S.

ELUNED STAINES' REMINDER notes that in the past, insomnia had some quite positive effects, such as, among other things, allowing time for prayer. Personally speaking, I would pray for a good night's sleep.

David McKinn, Kinsale, Ont.

MY RECENT ROAD-year article on insomnia was so well-researched that I could not sleep a wink that night. She wanted I could not sleep but I felt sorry halfway through.

Michael Kneel, Preston, Junction, N.J.

THE LATIMER CASE

FIRST OF ALL, I am not an advocate of mercy killing, but I certainly can understand the amount of anguish and love that it took for Robert Latimer to end the life of his daughter ("Robert Latimer's angry crusade," National, March 27). The act of mercy on an anguished family member is not a heinous crime. God bless Robert Latimer in his quest for peace.

Judy McLeod, Niagara, Ont.

FOR 30 LONG YEARS, my family and I watched an my other sister deteriorate and suffered from a rare form of Parkinson's disease. When Robert Latimer killed his daughter, I sometimes think back to that case. But, in an ironic twist of fate, I have become permanently disabled with a genetic disorder. I am now one of the 1.1 million Canadians learning to live each day with chronic debilitating pain. Life is full of twists and although it aches and aches, I have seen far, I've learned that life is what you

are in of choices to make of it. I've also learned that if I had been more understanding of my mother's disease, I might have been more caring and sympathetic to her pain and suffering. Latimer may have felt justified in ending his daughter's suffering, and at one time I might have agreed with him, but now I wonder whose pain he was—and is—really trying to kill.

Janice Pringle, Pickering, Ont.

LATIMER SET HIMSELF up as judge, jury, prosecutor and executioner. It does seem that Saskatchewan society let him and his



daughter down, but that is no excuse for what he did and I believe he got away very lightly. Compassion should be for the innocent, the weak, the helpless and the needy, and not for the perpetrator of crime and injustice, especially against the helpless and weak.

Brian Best, Saint John, N.S.

MEDICAL WOES

YOUR RECENT EDITORIAL concerning our medical situation struck home ("Pitting a doctor against," from the Editorial, March 27). My daughter recently had to go to the emergency department at a large northern Ontario hospital due to a very random knee. She would never have to be seen. The doctor then made a requisition for an X-ray and a referral for the remedy. When she showed up for the test, the staff could not find the requisition. She had to wait another an hour

to see the doctor who finally did get the proper documents for her.

One of today's current topics is a two-tiered health care system. We already have that. Can you imagine an MP's daughter waiting a week of 12 hours to be seen and then tested? So we are now looking at a choice for anyone for politicians and their like, one for people who can afford private care or are willing to spend their savings on going to the U.S. or private hospitals, and finally, the unworkable state we are now subjected to at hospitals. This crisis has been getting worse for years. It allows patients to suffer or die needlessly. It also causes a lot of stress on the doctors who still care about their patients. Politicians could have and should have done much more in previous years. The current situation is a disgrace.

Gerry Meek, Kingston, Ont.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, your editorial calls for a bigger role for competing private sector delivery to improve health care. Insurance-like, private delivery has been linked to private payment and private insurance, which benefits a small proportion of high-income earners, and twofold, but makes sure that those longer for the majority of the population. In an article discussing private delivery, the Canadian Medical Association stated that private insurance does not improve access to publicly insured services, does not lower costs or improve quality of care, can increase wait times for those who are not privately insured, and could exacerbate an already existing shortage in the public system.

In Australia, where 47 per cent of the population has private insurance, there has been no net benefit to the community. In a 2004 study, Leonie Segal of Monash University's centre for health economics found evidence that Australia's heavily subsidized private system has been "unhelpful, wasteful and inequitable." Despite challenges in the Canadian system, the evidence shows that a universal single-payer system is fairer and more cost-effective than other systems of private care, and is overwhelmingly supported by Canadians.

There are many ways of delivering more efficient care to all Canadians within the public system. Last year, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives released a study showing how successful initiatives in some based

care in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario have produced dramatic cuts in waiting times for surgery across the country. This is where the focus should be on proving our universal system, not decreasing it to two-tiered companies and private hospitals can increase their profits at the expense of average Canadians. As for the shortage of physicians, it's also well documented. However, it's important to note that not

during the peak of our growing season. Canadian residents of buying organic and imported is better than buying local. That answer also states as knowing how "organic" is defined in other jurisdictions. What I do know is that the vast majority of that grower employ the integrated pest management system, applying the basic minimum of chemicals to their crops. Conventional growers in Canada have been "harmed" in chemicals.



HOW DO YOU LIKE these apples? Canadian fruit is not laced with chemicals, a reader says

impregnation of pesticides in North America never existed Canada, perhaps because of the failure of market-based health care in the United States.

Dr. Dorelle Martin, Board Chair, Canadian Doctors for Medicine, Toronto

DOWN ON THE FARM

AS THE WHEEL of an Ontario farm tractor, I'm rather surprised to hear that buying local has become so very trendy ("Local schools," Taste, March 27). Hard to say to explain why, along with all other growing peaches and pears for the processing industry, my husband will soon be pulling out his peach trees, so the last processing facility in Canada closes its doors at the end of March.

These handy fruit case parents put in school lunch bags will soon be made with peaches and pear grown and processed off-site. Now, parents may not know that because, quite legally, companies can label their case as a "product of Canada" as long as 51 per cent of the cost of getting the product to the grocery shelf was incurred in Canada. I don't know where your writer Pamela Cuthbert lives, but although I live in northwestern Ontario, I am hard-pressed to buy Canadian, let alone local, fruits or vegetables in the large supermarket chain, even

And for the record, organic does not mean chemical-free, it only means that synthetic pesticides were not used and that production was only certified to a last resort in livestock production.

As for the concern that Canadian apples are contaminated in refrigeration systems, does Cuthbert not think that imported apples put might be refrigerated in the empty thousands of trucks en route to Canada?

Diane McGinnis, Cedar Springs, Ont.

CUTHERBERT DIDN'T mention that agriculture without adding minimum farmers for the good of the issue. She pulled out all the sheep with an unnecessary bias like "chemical-free" without doing research on this validity. In the interest of fairness, I would suggest that research, balanced optimism and knowledge of the state of the world attract more readers.

CL. Hester, Stouffville, Ont.

BUY LOCAL BECAUSE it's fresher. Buy local because virtually all of Canada's farms are family owned, so it helps our rural economy. Buy local because our farmers are good environmental stewards. Most of all, buy local because of its quality.

Deborah Kibben, chef and owner of Pizzeria Fresh Food Area, Perkasie, Ont.

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EXTRAORDINARY CANADIANS

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MACLEAN'S
MAY 2004



'We show a property with absolutely no guarantee of making a cent unless it sells'

THE CULTURE CLUB

With another census would check his facts before he goes off the deep end within reason ("Man the barbed wire? Him too and we're taking fire," *Opinion*, March 17). For one thing, the Writers' Union of Canada is against the current human rights bill in Canada. For another, Coyne might consider his comment that film makers shouldn't mind the withdrawal of tax credits because cultural grants are restricted to use if they are Canadian-made. Isn't that the same thing, *Mr. Coyne*? And for the record, Canadian writers and artists work hard for our money, just like Maclean's contributors, and we happen to be one of Canada's most successful exports. Stuart Sween, chair of the Writers' Union of Canada, Toronto.

benefits, a pension, vacation time and a paid annual pay cheque. In our world, we treat all the men to market and show a property with absolutely no guarantee of making a cent unless it sells. Amen! like this make people think that we plunk a sign on a lawn and

really enjoy having all those unqualified strangers going through your home? And by the way, where is that little ornament that mother gave us? Chris Boudreau, Associate, Royal LePage Partners, Kelowna, Alta.

STOP DOTTING ON OBAMA, says a reader. John McCain is the true leader.



OBAMA FANS

SEEK Maclean's has chosen a candidate so whom they wish to vote on for the rest of the campaign, and have published another (the second) article expounding on his policies and personal history ("How Obama would govern," *World*, March 17). It is not true that even your most ardent journalists have been deluded into thinking that this man somehow has the ability to foster bipartisanship where he has consistently followed his party on every issue. If America wants to elect a

true moderate who can bring the country together (they would) they should elect John McCain, a man who has stood up to his party on Bush's tax cuts, campaign finance and immigration reforms, as well as a variety of other important issues. Trevor Jablon, Saskatoon.

WHAT REALTORS REALLY DO

I COULD NOW AGREE more with Steve March as his column about real estate agents and how they don't make commission ("Why we really hire real estate agents," *Business*, March 17). It has been my experience that the real estate agent tells you to put on a new roof and change the windows, then pressures you to lower the price for a quick sale. In other words, he works for the buyer, not for you. And for that you pay him a commission of between five and seven per cent. Did you know that in some places in Europe the buyer pays the commission? After the death of our parents, we, the children, went over to Frankfurt, Germany, to sell their home, which we inherited, for a good price, and the buyer paid the "courtesy," as they call it there. Hans Pöhl, Pöhl & Chén, Que.

instantly make \$100,000 or more. It would be like me saying, "I would like to be a teacher because they have a great pension, gratuity and look at all that vacation time!" Can you imagine the backlash your reader would get if he wrote an article with that sort of attitude towards the teaching profession? Gail Beaton, sales representative, Royal LePage Frank Real Estate, Lakefield, Ont.

IT IS IMPORTANT to perhaps walk in the shoes of not only the seller, but also the seller's family and friends, to sit down with one's potential estate transaction. There are so many nuances in selling a property that the vendor or seller are not aware of, because a qualified agent will deal with them before they become a problem. Examples would be ensuring that a property is zoned correctly, or that the issues revealed in an inspection are addressed to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. A professional realtor is there at all hours of the day or night to deal with the particular details that could make the deal in doubt to disappear for one reason or another.

By using a professional realtor, the customer has someone to turn to. Selling privately, did you get the most money? Did you

IN PASSING

Sir Arthur C. Clarke, 90, author of a radar specialist in the Second World War, he later proposed the concept of new standard generational space flights. But his writing gave him greater fame, especially a story that formed the basis of a cult classic with Stanley Kubrick, leading to 2001: A Space Odyssey in 1968. He later wrote a sequel, 2010: Odyssey Two.

Anthony Minghella, 54, director, following tragedy. His 1996 film of Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient* won a Best Director Oscar. Among his other films were *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and *Cold Mountain*. He served as chairman of the British Film Institute and had just completed production of *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*.



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maclean.ca/James

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 James Wherry's Internet recap of Quebec's Sun-dial-draw from the heights of the House of Commons press gallery.
maclean.ca/thecommons

Megapundit
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MACLEANS 50
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LATEST COMMENTS

John Geddes
 "Drug addiction doesn't come from slugging drugs into all veins, much less from snorting it at the popliteal artery on your parents' old sofa."
maclean.ca/jgeddes

Paul Wells
 After a year in Europe, *Maclean's* senior columnist is back in Ottawa.
maclean.ca/pwells

Scott Feschuk
 Advertising all your pet culture quirks—without a smattering of unsolicited observations on what we're up to.
seely.ca/feschuk

Brian D. Johnson
 Revisiting everything from the latest Dr. Seuss flick to a ballet with a killing.
maclean.ca/bdjohnson

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

Judging the competition
 While *Maclean's* magazine profiles the nation's Olympic hopefuls, *Maclean's* provides background on their rivals, their sport—and Canada's often dismal history within the event. First up: men's gymnastics.

Great Canadians colliding
 What's the philosophy behind the portraits of M.L.B. Senoussi and Moncler in their David Attenborough's and more, in a new, Canadian book series?

How Halifax got its bad rap
 Renowned criminologist Donald Chambers calls us why Halifax is the crime capital of Eastern Canada—and what can be done about it.

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7 DAYS

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE DALAI LAMA

After being accused by China last week of mistreating the violent uprising in Tibet, the exiled Buddhist leader invited Chinese officials to search his office in Dharamshala, India, for evidence of his involvement. The 73-year-old—who claims he's committed to non-violent action and increased autonomy for Tibet, not independence as China claims—demanded to step down as the political head of the movement if things spiral further out of control.

Good news

Help, on hold

Stephen Harper's government is proposing a much-needed overhaul of Canada's immigration system. Currently, at least 100,000 potential workers are stuck in a bureaucratic backlog, with years to wait if they will be accepted as immigrants. According to the rules, Ottawa must process every single application, even if the person has no hope of meeting the necessary criteria. If the Conservatives have their way, immigration officials will be allowed to sit through the pile for the best and the brightest. His labour council, ensuring that highly educated, well-trained newcomers arrive as soon as possible is only logical.

Everyday heroes

Each year, a new study reveals 10 American (not including firefighters and paramedics) do while making to rescue a complete stranger. Researchers also found there are 746 times more

Bad news

Empty gestures

The symbolic human rights abuses of China's authoritarian regime should be a matter of global concern—not just when demonstrators are brutally suppressed in Tibet, but every time a human rights activist, journalist, or human rights lawyer is arrested or killed. However, much of the world, including Canada, keep up the facade that trade deals trump concerns

the G8 and are in Beijing, not China. "It is illogical to blame millions of Chinese."

Wild ride on Wall St.

Investors can be forgiven for feeling a little bit like they're on a roller coaster. The banking U.S. economy's worst global stock market plunge last week after the forced bailout of the country's fifth largest bank sent the country's economy into a tailspin. But then there's yet another intervention by the Federal Reserve, and some unexpectedly good Wall Street earnings, and another one. And so, the list of the financial panic that swears in all serious investors: But at least the economy is on the ground are sharing in it. The value of their holdings plunged from \$1.1 billion to less than \$1 billion in less than a day.

FACE OF THE WEEK



AFTER SEVEN years in prison for the "mercy killing" of his daughter, Robert LeMay began day parole at a halfway house in Ottawa.

Hard day's night

It was a rough week for the Beatles—their last. First, Paul McCartney was forced to pay his ex-wife Linda all \$10 million in a lump-sum divorce ruling. Then came news that pop princess Mariah Carey couldn't sue her fifth child, Chaz, for \$10 million in a lump-sum divorce ruling. Then came news that pop princess Mariah Carey couldn't sue her fifth child, Chaz, for \$10 million in a lump-sum divorce ruling. Then came news that pop princess Mariah Carey couldn't sue her fifth child, Chaz, for \$10 million in a lump-sum divorce ruling.

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Chantal Kreviazuk to busk for Habitat for Humanity Canada

FOR THIS AND MORE GOOD NEWS BE AT EGLINTON SQUARE TORONTO, 8AM MARCH 26



Race and America, as you've never heard it before



ANDREW COYNE

I have heard, or read, some great speeches on race in America—Bobby Kennedy's impassioned plea for peace, delivered from the back of a faded truck in Indianapolis on the night Martin Luther King Jr. was killed; Bill Bradley taking the Senate to school the day after the Rodney King riots, slamming a bundle of pearls against the podium 56 times—the number of blows from police truncheons King endured—for emphasis (“poor! poor! poor!”); just one of a dozen of the late King’s speeches. And I have heard candidates at political meetings in a campaign, find the words to confront their critics and define a crisis. But I do not think I have ever heard a speech that so adroitly combined the emotional and the rational, and the courage, in the deeper context of race in America—as the speech Barack Obama delivered in Philadelphia Tuesday morning.

It was, however, a rare house, it was awfully personal, but most of all it was a tremble. It was not “inspirational.” In the ongoing, often leading style a Obama’s everyday campaign speeches. If it was inspiring, it was because it was so clearly predicated on a faith in the ability of the public to absorb a complex message—or rather, a message whose central theme, woven throughout, was of complexity. That life is complex, people are complex, the United States is complex. It succeeded, I think, not just in presenting a convincing account of his relationship with his former pastor, the recruiting Rev. Jeremiah Wright, but even of turning the controversy to his advantage.

The dawn of his candidacy was not enough Wright’s speeches, widely disseminated on the Net, were not just “controversial” or “incendiary,” in the careful euphemisms of the public press. They were patently, historically unprecedented in every respect: theory, racial grievance or blame-America-first sentiment that ever cropped up on a Ivory-Left

website. That Obama could have been so faithful a participant in this much church for 10 years, that he could have given him such a central place in his life—baptism of his children, suspension of his books—was not some thing that could simply be dismissed as glib by association. If it was a stretch to believe that Obama secretly, against all the evidence, harbored the same views, if he one could be made that he was willing to coexist with a moral extremist of fit helped establish his political standing in the Chicago black community—or at once undermining the moral appeal of his candidacy, both his personal authenticity and his post-racial message of racial cohesion. Clearly, Obama had some enlightening to do.



His white grandmother could love him, but confess her ‘fear of black men on the street’

He began, strangely given his setting, with the foundational paradox of American history: a constitution that proclaimed the equality of every citizen, yet was “stained by this nation’s original sin of slavery.” Another black leader might have dwelled on this contradiction. Instead, Obama focused on the impossibility of that nation remaining unchanged. He dealt in the contradiction themselves planted the seeds of an inevitable progress toward greater equality—though not one that could be reached without generations of struggle and sacrifice.

If it had taken too long to see those gains realized, that helped to explain the anger of men of Rev. Wright’s generation. Explain,

but not excuse, Wright’s mistake was not to speak about racism, but to believe that nothing had changed, that progress was impossible—to elevate “what is wrong with America” above all that we know is right with America.” Indeed, Obama’s own candidacy was, he implied, the most eloquent rebuke to Wright’s pessimism.

This is the theme that runs throughout the speech, a delicate balancing of optimism, a pairing of contradictions. The same Wright who could preach such bile from the pulpit was also the man who taught Obama faith and love, and his community self-reliance. Is it impossible to believe, in that context, that Obama could love the man and hate his view? That he could understand his anger, without knowing him? No more than that his own white grandmother, the woman who helped move him, could love him deeply, yet confess “her fear of black men who passed by her on the street.”

So it was necessary to condemn such views, but also to understand where they came from—both at the same time, not one or the other, as positions of the right or left tend to do. In the same way, it was not enough to dismiss white nationalists, but also to understand where fears. If some demagogues had exploited black rage for political gain, others had done the same, many times over, with whites. That did not make either side’s anger illegitimate. But in either case, was anger enough. Blacks were wanted on press for change, for bet-



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A grand coalition? It's in Ottawa, not Berlin.



PAUL WELLS

A travelling columnist returning to Canada from Europe finds surprising hints of the old Coalition in his home and native land. *Newsline is discussing this and Ottawa, where the madcap experiment in German-style "grand coalition" government is now in its third year.*

The junior coalition partner, Stephen Harper, was particularly proud of his Liberal party's contributions to the latest federal budget. A news release from his party office listed all the budget measures he had persuaded his fellow government leaders, Stephen Harper, to implement. "Including the gas tax transfer permanent, it was announced on February 2009, providing direct support to the auto sector, as we called for in January 2008... additional investments in infrastructure, as we advocated in February 2008"—and so on, listing eight budget measures. "The Conservatives are adopting Liberal ideas," Dion crowed. "To safeguard the hard work, Dion was worried his troops would protect the fragile Conservative-Liberal coalition. "We will find a way to not defeat the government."

A grand coalition, as students of German politics will know, is simply a decision to co-opt one of many options in a multi-party parliament. If no one party commands a majority, and there are no viable left-of-centre or right-of-centre coalitions available, the big centre-left and centre-right parties may decide to throw their lot in together. It's obvious, just it usually happens thanks to Freud's narcissism of small differences: the big parties that most closely resemble each other are often the ones that have with other most Germany's grand coalition, comprising Christian Democrats and Social Democrats under Angela Merkel, is widely the second in that country's history, and it's no coincidence of timing, given, who haven't had a grand coalition in Canada since the Robt or Borden coasted Liberals and Conservatives into the majority government in 1917. Since

then it's been Liberal and Tory going in at a hair's-bread and tang, far longer than almost any of where been since.

But if anyone was up to the task of bringing Liberals and Conservatives together, it was Stephen Harper. He's been a coalition-builder since his national election in 2002, bringing together Canadian Alliance members back into that party, deserting some (Joe Clark's Progressive Conservatives, and, when Clark opened his advance, writing until Peter MacKay took over the old party before arranging an merger that made the modern Conservative party possible. Mackay, it turns out, was only the lion's den for the Liberal buffet that followed. The negotiations were carried out in such secrecy that almost nobody in Ottawa

As with the Borden precedent, grand coalitions normally form only at times of transformative change in the affairs of the nation. Otherwise, party politics are simply self-interest would lead the parties to diverge. Other parties may grand coalition are often crushed by the conservative inherent in holding them together. The Liberals may not survive the current experiment. It takes great courage, masquerading as a hawk's cowardice, for them to stay in cahoots with Harper.)

And indeed, the current Liberal-Dion coalition is proceeding over something it was going to the shape of Canada's government. It's all in that February budget, which the Liberals all hesitated before voting against it—well, well—in small enough numbers to ensure its survival. The budget provides for provincial revenues to grow, while federal revenues as a share of GDP decline. "The gap has widened in recent years," the budget document says, and "will likely open time to grow over the coming years." The gap between provincial revenues and federal revenues—the provision "fiscally" has been built in for more than 30 years. Federal transfers to the provinces, as a share of all federal spending, are half again as high as they were when Brian Mulroney took office a generation ago.

In 2009-2010, the gap between federal revenues and provincial transfers of revenues was \$16 billion. This year—according to the unaccounted looking " Annex " tucked at the back of the budget—it will be \$34 billion. The Harper GST cut, which the Liberals



It takes great courage, masquerading as cowardice, to stay in cahoots with Harper

knows more than them. The parties seek compromise with plausible deniability on each other's resources until they reach a certain level of mutual combat.

Liberal-Conservative coalitions are as alien to Canadian tradition as ever today, everyone concerned pretends that one doesn't exist. Liberal's continued criticism of Tories, although Dion's pathetic Quakerism, forced parties into making a lot of heart in the game. Only Conservatives sit in the federal cabinet, but this is just part of the charade: to punish his Liberal coalition partners, Harper does not permit his Conservative "invisibles" to talk back anything. The Liberals make a great show of blaming the NDP for the current government's mistakes, but the lie is transparent. The NDP keeps showing up to vote against the government. The Liberals don't, Of course not: it's their government and

have done nothing to stop, will ensure that Ottawa can't grow or lose revenue back Harper's growing mistakes to the provinces, which Dion—true to his word—found a way not to defeat, ensure the provincial governments will be the only ones with the resources to undertake ambitious new projects.

This massively overrated overhaul of Canadian federalism has in the face of everything the Liberals world is witness during Jean Chrétien's decade in power. If the Liberals were not absolutely dedicated to implementing this revolution, they would have tried to stop it long before now. Stephen Harper and Stephen Harper are accomplished at changing things. It is a measure of their discipline and maturity that they continue to deny everything. M

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at www.mackay.ca/fothillnews

Eliot Spitzer and that trouble-filled bra



BARBARA AMIEL

As many women know, the bra's "underwire" bra is really the most effective. Unfortunately, the construction of the bra makes its effectiveness 1) discovered this while sitting in the parking lot of Florida's Coleman

Federal Correctional Complex trying to demolish all that stood between me and my beloved, which at that point happened to be the underwire in my bra. It was sitting off the metal detector.

During removal of shoes, belt and spectacles, I volunteered my bra and handed under my approved shirt (not transparent, not a wire, I swear, not devious, not otherwise inappropriate yellow, orange or any color that could be mistaken for banned colors such as black or orange).

"You can't go through the metal detector without wearing a bra," said the guard. "The bra was off the metal detector and you won't let me through."

No reply. Thirty minutes of heaven-like gawing, wires removed, I passed inspection. You learn, you adapt. The discarded bra in the vacant lavatory racks some awe. "When this rule came in?" asked one royal-fell visitor, seething so inexpressible a howl I wondered if this was going to be held to the "no wigs" rule. (She wasn't. I would have been.) "What? There last December and I ain't dragging a 450 bra?"

I'm not signing up as a prison thief. And I could do without letters wondering (legitimate by) if everything I wrote a good enough my husband's visitation the women in me. It is possible to write about that Spitzer and not let it to my days in a Chicago courtroom but it makes an ass. When you have first-hand knowledge of a subject you're not a flake. Spitzer got out on the day I was stuck in the metal detector. Schooling me is familiar enough. I have been a regular object of it myself. And he can't say I was entirely free of

it on seeing photos of Spitzer. But sitting at that waiting point, nervously smoothing a guy hair (as comb allowed) and hoping I looked good for Cornell, who is looking particularly well during low weights, my head was in my own cycle. I never expected to find myself defending an American prosecutor, most especially Spitzer, whose notion of due justice is to hold a press conference. Still, his conduct has been textbook twisted justice. Science first, evidence later.

The inflammatory affidavit filed in court by prosecutors and ignored in every news outlet did not name him and was not directed at him. Nevertheless, it contained hand quotes of no probative value about the sexual nature of "Client's" that "sources" alleged was Spitzer, thus guaranteeing media focus on attempts to have the embroiled prosecutor create with "co-operating" witnesses after threatening them with the rack and life in jail. Before a single charge has been laid, the verdict is in and Spitzer is subjected up for the inevitable process of plea bargaining.

Never mind the State's Roland Prince or the notorious Soviet "poet" Andrei Volynsky. Homegrown actors abound, from Salem Corbin Mat her to Joe McCarthy. Like Spitzer, they take the vaguely worded legislation Congress creates whenever America is afraid of something like civil wars, Communism or billion-dollar frauds, and use their dominance to apply these laws in any way. Lady Justice's scales were designed to fight corruption and broadened their use to include Wall Street traders.

The justice system in the United States is beginning to resemble a rogue state—out of control and lawless. All the laws that might be used to convict Spitzer of something—the "John" laws, the Money Act, the various "suspicious financial transactions" and money-moving regulations—are nonexistent and ought not to be on the books. They are nothing but ammunition for trigger-happy prosecutors in search of trophy convictions. Spitzer himself searched many of these obscure laws, created others and used them

'You can't go through the metal detector without wearing a bra,' said the guard



whose trade is of little importance.

Prosecutors are big business as alleged user Eliot, who prosecuted prosecution services as a New York attorney general, knows. You can't escape the ads for "secret services" in NYC. Why should Eliot be the single client "absconded" for using them when the FBI could shut down the Empress Club with one agent's phone call asking for a prostitute to come to Washington from NYC? The answer may be political—in his being excluded even by the governor and the new administration and all political power, a more deadly weapon than the mere money his business targets possessed. The reason may be obvious—his is a tall peg to sit on down.

It isn't necessarily unworthy when prosecutors become big celebrities. Think Vincent Bugliosi. But other names are less noble

to the hell as tools with which to brand and threaten his prey.

How Spitzer got away with trampling rights began to unfold. As Kimberly Strassler wrote in the Wall Street Journal, "The former New York attorney general never believed criminal rules applied to him and his view was reinforced again and again by on-airing press. He never did get caught because no reporters were his accomplices." Spitzer knew just how to play the media ("like a Stradivarius," writes Strassler) and deflect their attention from his own shortcomings. He could threaten critics of unprovable essentials like the elderly John Winterbush, former chairman of Goldman Sachs, and the story would be leaked by reporters eager to be on Spitzer's soap box.

Spitzer is a multi-millionaire, unlike the prosecution of (largely black) non-violent accused I watched for months in Chicago. Unable to fight the glass-ceiling system, they came into court silent and shackled, outnumbered by a covey of wealthy lawyers. They resemble the young men I see in Coleman who last week were celebrating Spitzer's downfall. If they understood what was happening to Spitzer, they might not rejoice so enthusiastically. The "man" is not getting legal justice, any justice—pretty much in moral tales but nothing that will spark critically needed reform in the real world of American justice. ■

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WHO'S FOOTING THE BILL?

Ottawa and Alberta may be headed for a showdown over emissions control

BY NICHOLAS SCHILLER • Had the policy been aimed at Newfoundland, Darcy Fournier would have rattled an array of environmental fury. But when federal Environment Minister John Baird unveiled coverage limits that will eventually force Alberta's oil sands developers to pump carbon dioxide emissions deep underground—as a cost of untold billions but with little indication of who will pay—Premier Ed Stelmach manly thanked Baird for his trouble. “The federal approach supports Alberta’s position,” he said in a statement that also said that the province’s oil sands industry, outlined in January, is carbon-sequestration.

Not exactly a barbed wire fence. But then, Stelmach is in a room with the latest installment of the Toronto, Ontario-based *Weekend Update* last spring, so the Canadian greenhouse gas emissions 20 per cent below 2006 levels by 2020. Baird’s complex new rules stop just short of forcing what’s called carbon capture and storage on oil sands. But his official say the alternatives, which include buying expensive credits on a national emissions trading system, will be so dear that companies have little choice but to comply ahead with the early new technology.

Stelmach’s co-operation, meanwhile, is likely there than advertised. His incident Alberta green plan, unveiled early this year, delays any emissions reductions until 2018, then cuts them 12 per cent from 2005 levels by the fall of 2020. Baird’s deadline for implementing carbon capture and storage is more aggressive than anything in Alberta anticipated, and will mean billions in technology and infrastructure costs. The federal government, which appears ready to accept Baird’s deadline, has moved ahead how much the bill will contribute to the project.

Yet the cost of carbon capture and storage, also called sequestration, is just one problem among many in Alberta’s relationship with the federal. The declining federal provincial emissions regulations and the new



OTTAWA'S new emission rules explicitly target the oil sands, forcing Baird to Stelmach

regimes, who wonder whose rules will prevail. The premier also objects to a Montreal-based national carbon credits trading system, now established by the feds, through which Alberta energy firms could buy credits from companies elsewhere that manage deeper cuts. Stelmach has said he will work through the system looking for infrastructure projects. But Alberta’s constitutionally mandated jurisdiction over natural resources.

At bottom, the friction exists from an old issue: who can regulate polluters, the feds or the provinces? “I really never thought that we might have a conflict between two governments whose approach to green issues are as different as ours,” says the University of Alberta’s law professor, a political scientist. “But it seems like we’re headed for it.” This week, speaking with Baird, Stelmach declined to say what he does want from that don’t meet Ottawa’s new emissions rules, due for formal release

this fall, but promised they “lie hand.” “I’ll be very clear,” he said. “You will not be able to buy your way out of this.” The basic standard for emissions now is certain at the outset, major industrial polluters must be 10 per cent more efficient in their burning of greenhouse gas-producing fossil fuels by 2010, and two per cent more efficient each year after that.

The scheme explicitly targets Alberta’s oil sands projects and, largely, coal and fossil electricity generators in major greenhouse gas polluters. Though it will not ban new dry coal generators by 2012, greenhouse gas emissions are targeted out by oil sands projects will be allowed to triple by 2018, when energy plants must adopt sequestration or an equivalent technology. Sequestration involves trapping, engineering and injecting CO₂ emissions into old oil and gas reservoirs or geologic-like geological formations.

How effectively the plan promotes seques-

tration depends largely on how high the carbon price carbon will be an incentive. Alberta, for example, has since July charged large emitters who don’t meet their target a penalty of \$10 a tonne, which most operations treat as a cost because it’s so cheap. But officials in Baird’s office predict carbon credits on the national emissions trading system will cost a prohibitive \$60 a tonne or more by 2018, making sequestration a cheaper way to comply. Baird argued such economies will

push forward in a decade or two. “It will all cost and who will pay. Many also worry this sequestration technology currently used at only a handful of locations worldwide simply create a new building footprint problem already caused by boom-related inflation and labour shortages.”

Not all Baird’s critics are skeptics. In the energy sector, one of the risks he’ll seek to be in encouraging carbon storage, capture efficiency. “We’re not a province that’s going to be other buying credits some where else or looking at any inter-regional transfer of wealth,” said Stelmach. Such commentary strikes at the core question of who controls the energy patch—Alberta or the feds. “The resources are owned by all Albertans,” Stelmach argued. “I’m sure the Prime Minister knows it. I will be constantly reminding him.” Then Stelmach asked who’ll pay. “I’m just saying that if the oil sands are the focus, let’s all sit around the same table and put money on the table and start dealing with the issue.”

Cuts associated with sequestration could lend appeal to other bold options. Last week, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion said that as prime minister he would adopt a national version of B.C.’s carbon tax, which began in July, charging a \$10-per-tonne levy on nearly all fossil fuels.

The tax, which will rise to \$30 by 2012, is now the new oil. With money earned via corporate and personal tax breaks. Dion says leadership in Alberta’s energy industry has weak to total support for a carbon tax that can sustain, through a levy of the gas pump or on energy bills, could help offset the cost of carbon emissions. But both the feds and Alberta rejected the notion, blocking one route out of their who sell pay expense.

Money and political rights—the stuff of good old-fashioned Canadian-style federalism—has joined the fight. “This is not about a national energy program,” he said last week. “We’re not setting a transfer of wealth.” But Stelmach is willing to show. Last week, following a new cabinet after a massive electoral victory this month, he named his son then Deputy Prime Minister, a lawyer, politician, Calgary lawyer, minister of international and foreign relations relations. Between now and his resignation in chief, Baird’s spokesman said he would very easily become Stelmach’s general. ■

With Julie Golden



BAIRD OFFERS A STERN WARNING TO POLLUTERS: ‘YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BUY YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS’

tempt companies to more quickly to sequestration and avoid buying credits or paying into a carbon technology fund. “If people are prepared to go the distance on full transformative change, rather than use the other compliance mechanisms,” he said, “they deserve to be rewarded with the greatest technology available.” This means investing in capture and storage, which Ottawa’s system would credit companies for, allowing them to delay making emissions until 2018. Baird also said that for sequestration will prove attractive to Alberta because it will allow firms to opt out of the emissions trading system, which Stelmach wants to discourage for when he calls the “extra regional wealth transfer” of Alberta’s energy sector buying credits out of province.

“Carbon capture and storage is great with sequestration,” said Baird. “It needs a mandate to

into sequestration. Ottawa has allocated \$1.5 billion to the province for green technology, which he noted Alberta will likely use for capture and storage. This was “a big transfer of wealth” that sequestration. Given the small federal contribution, Stelmach’s mild response to Baird’s plan looked suspiciously self-serving. Leading Liberal environmental critic David McGowan is back on to his lack of work as proof of the “play the system” theory.

The critique glosses over the real concern: Alberta, among both government and industry leaders, are not willing to agree on what Baird’s measures, however

TOP PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE/ALBERTA NEWS; BOTTOM PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE/ALBERTA NEWS



MP OLIVIA CHOW says private care means 'milking money off the backs of our kids'

DAYCARE DILEMMA

Private operators are under attack, despite the shortage of spaces

BY PETER SEARW TAYLOR • Many day-care centres complain their industry has never been particularly profitable. But now there's a growing move to take the profit out of it completely. Private sector daycares are under attack in many parts of the country, with vocal opponents charging that creating a profit is fundamentally at odds with proper child care. And yet, with an apparent shortage of daycare spaces in this country, for-profit operators argue they're the ones best able to solve the access problem. So what's the priority—daycare spaces or daycare ideology?

The highest-profile assault on commercial daycare is a private member's bill from NDP MP Olivia Chow that would commit Ottawa to a national daycare plan and deny funding to any new for-profit centres. "The dollars should not be going to a company's bottom line," says Chow. "We don't want institutional corporations coming into this country and milking money off the backs of our kids." Her proposal has the support of all three opposition parties and currently sits at the brink of becoming law, but the Harper government is likely to demand the same way it did a recent private member's bill on NDP's A final showdown is set for April 3 at the Commons.

As for Chow's fear of multinational corporations, she's not alone. Pro-Australian firm ABC Learning Centres, last fall, ABC, the largest child care company in the world with more than 3,000 centres in each of Australia and the U.S., was rumored to be planning a major push into Canada. A corporate rout-

ed 125 busy Beaver bought 11 existing daycares in Alberta and earned the immediate wrath of Canadian unions and the NDP, both of whom are eager to see the daycare and early remote to a non-profit, universal operation close to home.

And yet panic over an *Ausair* invasion appears misplaced. The U.S. telephone rates page once bankrupted ABC, which has more, and not cross-holdings through daycares, and anyone with no looks at all. "Public daycares don't get caught parking their money in subprime mortgages," says Chow, with some satisfaction. Nevertheless, the continuing spectre of non-commercial child care has prompted Martin Frenkel, coordinator of the influential Childhood Research and Research Unit (CRU) at the University of Toronto, to call for a moratorium on private sector daycare licenses in Ontario.

In Quebec, private operators are already at a disadvantage within the province's heavily subsidized 57-day daycare system. For-profit centres receive \$51 per child per day in government funds, while non-profit centres get up to \$62. To make up this funding gap, private daycares have traditionally been allowed to charge parents fees for extras such as dance lessons or extended hours, but the Jean Charest government recently challenged the practice, and though private daycares

was a court battle for the right to charge fees, the province has vowed to appeal.

Susan Public, who runs Gardens Montessori, an daycare in Montreal, sees the new attack as extra in its continuing evidence of government animosity. "If the government gets its way, I see private sector daycares being wiped out in the long run," she says. Given the tough working hours for the 9-to-5 daycare, the argument a strategy will simply reduce access even further.

In fact, given constant complaints that Canada as a whole suffers from a shortage of child care spaces, many in the business see official hostility toward the for-profit sector as oversteering a cart. This is especially so given both for-profit and non-profit centres face the same government regulations and the same parental scrutiny. "There's no oversight against private sector daycares," opines Kathy Graham, a child care consultant and former CEO of the Association of Daycare Operators of Ontario. "But if we're really concerned about access to child care, we should be encouraging new entry into our sector, not targeting one group," she says.

Graham points to Saskatchewan, where the former NDP government entirely dismantled the for-profit daycare sector. That province has the lowest level of child care coverage in the country. "Besides," she adds, "we know competition breeds excellence." Such a free-market approach to child care seems a radical from the CRU's friendly, however. She argues only non-profit operators can guarantee high-quality care. "The fundamental question is whether child care is a public good or a marketable commodity," states Frenkel.

But even some parents who don't use daycare centres support the private sector's right to provide child care. Stay-at-home mom and family issues lobbyist Sara Landmark of Kamloops, B.C., is a vocal proponent of income splitting as a means to support at-home parenting. In the also spoken to an insurer of private sector daycares as an expression of parental choice. "For governments or experts to claim they know what's best for our kids—whether that's non-profit daycares or anything else—is an insult to parents everywhere," she says. "Choose childcare and we should just trust parents to make the best choices for their kids." ■



RIG NUMBERS MEAN A BIGGER PRESENCE

"Identity has a quality of its own and we're bringing some agency. This is a huge, huge opening and you need to be there for your presence to be felt."—Col. Peter Rabinovich, commander of the U.S. 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, commenting on the arrival of 2,000 U.S. Marines in Kandahar. Their seven-month deployment will be a welcome buttress to Canadian troops battling the Taliban in the southern Afghan province.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. MARINES



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BRINGING YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



Looking back, with envy, at leaders past



BRIAN MULRONEY

As we postponed the spring end of the university term, more than several thousand lucky young Canadians will set off into the best education they will ever get. These will be those who spend the summer drifting through

the youth homelands found all across Europe. Then they will find pockets of Asia (leaving their geographical studies), lots of Germany, some Scandinavian, lots of Britain, very few Russia and almost no-one from France, Italy or Spain (why travel when you have everything at home?).

Tendrily, any Canadian entering any hostel for a sleepover regarded with a respectful approach, there was a stranger whose

the laziest and richest city, led by someone called David Miller? Now could not be their call (and arguably lived by Dines), march the way through the main streets of Vancouver, Montreal and Ottawa for an hour, and no one would recognize them.

We once had politicians who were Canadian in scope. Everybody knew of Wilfrid Laurier out in British Columbia, who ruled for 30 years without taking a drink. Now does the most Peter Lougheed or in his empire of oil and became a national figure. His successor, the unloved Ralph Klein, knew every national journalist in the country because he took them all to his hotel jobs.

Remembering Tommy Douglas was known everywhere for making his Socialist doctrine the only national issue in all North

america? Ask any average intelligence Canadian to name the premiers and you get a blank stare.

Out on the Pacific, the name Gordon Campbell may be known, but not the man. He never travels Canada. Could not be picked out of a police lineup. No one can spell the name of Alberta's premier, whose one-of-a-kind name is into a second language.

The name of the new Saskatchewan premier is kind something. Or perhaps there's Manitoba's Whalen? Or Quebec's Ouellet? Or Ontario's Charest? In Quebec, for the first time, the incumbent has disappeared. Jean Charest so common in his minority period that he never met, and is as unknown as Campbell recently.

Who has ever heard of the premier of Nova Scotia, Nova Brunswick or Prince Edward Island? Only the News Night, Danny Williams, who had the wit to become a millionaire before becoming premier, lets us know the Rock is still there.

Just the invisibility factor flows from the capital. Thanks to the green fields of Ontario,

BIGGER THAN LIFE. Real Livescan, Photo Trudeau and Joey Smallwood stole newspaper headlines and were known across Canada.



'Never within memory has the whole Ottawa scene been so miserable'

ministry was a fine badge, with leaders well-known. Lester Pearson and his little Peace Pipe, Pierre Trudeau with his shaming, sometimes off the diving-board apocryphal—the Canada kids told a little higher as they walked.

Today? Never have Canada's leaders, both federal and provincial, been so invisible. As hence, it may be called, as well as abroad. We have Prime Minister Stephen (as possible to Lib) Harper. And Opposition leader Sol Price, Dine, whose Liberal caucus members behind his back call him "Mr. Dine"—the British TV wing. Never within memory has the whole Ottawa scene been so miserable, as off the polls show, voters indicating that no party deserves majority status.

It goes further than the capital. Ottawa, the largest and richest province, is led by someone called Dalton McGuinty. Toronto,

Ontario's David Miliband was Manitoba Bill Davis, naming for and being Ontario, was on par with Ottawa's leaders (and the Vice Premier, Mayne, David Crecheta, who served Toronto with Bill Davis following his career over he went in the land).

Jean Lesage, who tried to keep Quebec together, and René Lévesque, who tried to cost it apart, were towering national figures, on the first pages all the time. (Even the lowly Maritimeers contributed: Nova Scotia produced the sage and saint Robert Stanfield for the national stage, to the delight of the press cartoons. Dick Sheppard, nicknamed, underpinned for four terms and a decade at every important Ottawa caucus party, made little Nova Brunswick a player. Every Canadian knew Joey Smallwood, his hat and his energy, and through that, his Newfoundland.

Today? In the smothering world of 21st

the most passing PM since William Lyon Mackenzie King, not a single Conservative cabinet minister was on the front lines (then there, C.D. Howe) has a national profile. By a poll of all MPs, Liberal deputy leader Michael Ignatieff was voted the first minister in the Conservative House when it is based on the public.

Last month, our anti-social leader of the land boycotted Ottawa's gala Politics and the Pen Banquet, where 50 Canadian authors donated \$500 to fund services. This ban on the anti-social Premier Minister has just confirmed that he will again refuse to attend the annual Publication From Gallery dinner, where the authors and the poets can laugh at each other.

One feels sorry for the three poor Canadian kids headed for Europe this spring. ■

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Big money in real estate, not books

BY JORDAN TIMM • The pre-war limestone building on Calgary's Stephen Avenue, post-estate could seem like a perfect spot at least, had McNally thought so when he saw it. "It just had real estate done spontaneously as a gorgeous building," says the co-owner of McNally Robinson, the country's largest independent bookstore. But last week came news that the company will shutter the store soon, 10,000 sq ft of real estate on a tight 1.6-acre site difficult years in Calgary's downtown, McNally Robinson is pulling out. In other ventures, in Winnipeg and Saskatoon, cen-



THE LARGEST independent bookstore is closing in Calgary

tre in real estate—and its entry into Manhattan has prospered, as reported last summer in *Maclean's*—but Calgary's over-reliance on real estate and labour markets proved too great a hurdle, given the loss profit margin bookstores enjoy to begin with.

What's more, McNally Robinson's success elsewhere has been based in large part on the owner's ability to get people out in the event, get for author signings and readings. In Calgary, with no suburbs, suburbs, and low residential-density downtown, these proved a harder sell. Though located near the theatre district within walking distance, the store struggled to generate traffic outside the lunch hour and the end of the working day. "Book events is not sufficient to bring people off the wayback downtown," McNally says. "They'll come for a play, but they're not making that distant trek for a book launch." Even when events were introduced in the afternoon and early evenings instead, they failed to draw.

There's a silver lining, however. The building McNally Robinson bought to house the store has appreciated significantly in value since the company purchased it, and its sale will fund operations elsewhere—including into the Toronto market in 2009. "We don't consider ourselves just an old-fashioned real estate," says McNally, "but it was more profitable than the bookstore would have been." ■

The problems persist in North Central

BY COLIN CAMPBELL • When Mackenzie's labelled Region's North Central neighbourhood was in Canada last year, politicians called at the North Central Family Centre citing its growth and good progress as evidence of success in the crime and drug-infested area locals call simply "the hood."

Last week, the centre was back in the spotlight, but for all the wrong reasons. A video surfaced showing members of the running squad, the Dirty Dozen, drinking alcohol while chugging and smoking pot while on a trip in Jamaica last December. The centre's director, Sandy Whitham, and assistant director Ben Armstrong, offered their resignation (the person wearing the camera is called "Buck" in the video and Armstrong is shown drinking with members of the squad), but the centre's board, chaired by Whitham's sister, refused to let them go, arguing that their departure would damage services too much.

The incident has sparked outrage within North Central's largely Aboriginal population and reignited debate over just how much progress is really being made in tackling the community's ills. "What happened here was a breach of trust," says Pat Pratt, whose two sons and daughter were on the Jamaican trip. Nobody wants the centre to close or cut programs, but there needs to be accountability at the top, she says.

Community leaders say they plan to protest the centre's inaction—and they argue that a greater leadership role should be handed over to Aboriginal leaders. The centre has said it is launching an own investigation into the whole affair underwriters just how deeply rooted the problems are in North Central, says Jennifer Campbell, a local community activist. "Just because a lot of politicians gather around the centre and hold up its progress, the problem isn't going away." ■

Sorry dad, there's no time to rehearse



FATHER and son team proves to be a hit with the Boston Symphony

BY HARRY MACDONALD • Luckily, unlike Canadian conductor John Kurland's last solo booking, hours ahead of the final concert in a series marking the Toronto-Sydney debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Kurland has not won the U.S. piano. Lisa Fischer came down with the flu, jeopardizing the evening performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5. But Kurland had a fallback: His father Arnon, one of the world's top Beethoven interpreters, was in New England for his son's BSO debut, and dubbed Arnon, who was staying with friends, got the dramatic call at 6 p.m. At the time, he was in the shower getting ready for John's performance. The next rehearsal was a blur, the elder Kurland didn't even have time to rehearse the piece. "Usually, I'm very particular to get the piano played the right way," he says. "I barely had time to try the piano for five minutes."

No matter. The following morning—the same day he was awarded the Governor General's Performing Arts Award—Kurland, who has played the concerto in November, recorded a glowing review of the Boston Globe. He did his work in contrast to his father's "often very raw," the *Globe* praised Kurland, who also runs a musical ensemble in Berlin, called Kolindskoln, drew "stupendous sounds" from the orchestra, and the review: The 31-year-old former musician, who once toured Beethoven in rock bands, made the "startling moment" on conducting after studying for a degree in engineering physics at the University of Toronto, says Arnon.

At the end of the performance, the Boston audience, many aware of the drama, "rose as one, with loud cheers, when father and son bowed," said one concertgoer. It was an emotional moment, and not just for the music. One year ago, fellow Kurland, Roger, Kurland's mother and Arnon's wife and the founder of Toronto's Musicale Concerts, lost her battle with cancer. ■



DRUGS AND alcohol in wide spark outrage in community

Iraq 2013

It's been five years since the U.S. toppled Saddam. What will Iraq's next five be like? BY LUEZA CH. SAVAGE

In Washington's eyes, a lot of things have been going right in Iraq five years after George W. Bush's ill-fated invasion to ouster the one-year ruler. Since the U.S. military revamped its strategy and sent in 10,000 additional troops on top of the 130,000 already there, the violence has dropped significantly. Iraqi civilian deaths dropped from a peak of 1,000 per month in November 2006 to around 700 in December 2007, according to confirmed U.S. and Iraqi data. Explosions of roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are down to one-third of their peak levels. Tribal leaders have joined neighborhood patrols, and thanks to no operations between Iraqis and U.S. forces, weapons caches are being blown up at two to three times the earlier pace. The terrorist group calling itself al Qaeda in Iraq has been driven once over shrinking patches of territory. The Iraqi army is beginning to reemerge, and the Iraqi parliament has passed a budget and several other laws.

On Monday, Vice President Dick Cheney arrived in Baghdad and proclaimed five "phenomenal changes" and a "tremendous turn around" have taken place there in just eight to months ago. "The message has worked," even so, he became an unofficial campaign slogan for Republican presidential candidate John McCain, who was in Iraq over the weekend. The success narrative is so strong in some quarters of Washington that when a congressional debate erupted last week over whether the U.S. should do more to help the country's 4.5 million external and internal refugees, Dana Rohrabacher, a Republican from California, said that, given the improving security situation, "now is the time that we should be calling on the refugees to go home."

They would if they could. But beneath the encouraging statistics, reality is more complicated. Part of the reason sectarian bloodshed has declined is that ethnic cleansing has been so successful. Shia militias have driven Sunnis out of Baghdad in large numbers. "The violence is down because there are fewer people to kill," says Nir Rosen, a fellow at the Center on Law and Security at New York University, and an Arabic-speaking writer and filmmaker who has spent much of the past five years documenting the war in Iraq. Another reason is that the U.S. is paying Sunni fighters to participate in so-called "awakening councils," which patrol their neighborhoods and have driven al Qaeda out. Their commitment is now being tested by tensions with the Iraqi government over money and the Sunni's perceived integration into national security forces.

And then there is the unpredictable factor of the powerful Shia militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr, who has opposed a temporary ceasefire against American and Iraqi troops while

he consolidates control of his Shiite Army. Al-Jalili's appointment foundation for peace in Iraq is almost without comment. Strong. The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, whose testimony to Congress next month will be closely watched, told the Washington Post on March 31 that "no one" in the U.S. and Iraqi governments "believes there has been sufficient progress by any means to the area of national reconciliation," or in the provision of basic public services. The Pentagon has begun listening to the additional surge troops, but now Petraeus wants a "force" in further reductions.

And although violence has declined, it still remains at 2009 levels, with 60 attacks a day. On the day that Cheney arrived, one U.S. soldier died in a roadside IED attack, six children were killed when a mortar round hit their home, and 12 people died in a bombing near the Hussein Mosque in the holy city of Karbala.

So, as the fifth anniversary of the invasion is marked on March 20, what do the next five years hold in store for Iraq? Some \$345 billion has been spent, nearly 4,800 American troops and tens of thousands of Iraqis have been killed, and the future of the country is only slightly more certain than when the war began. The United Nations remains allowing a multinational security force in Iraq only at the end of this year, and the Bush administration negotiating a long-term agreement with the Iraqi government to authorize the continuing presence of U.S. troops. But the presidential campaign season will bring heated political debate over whether the U.S. military presence in Iraq must be sustained to the blood and treasure the American people have already paid will not be over, whether it's time for Washington to cut its losses.

McCain promises to say the course is wrong, calling any effort a "surrender." Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton promise to begin drawing back combat troops, arguing that will force Iraq politicians "to take responsibility" for their future. They both talk about the US playing a "ladder role" in negotiating a political solution for the bitterly divided country. And even the Democratic candidates are leaving some wiggle room, suggesting that even the withdrawal of Iraq's Iraq would not be swift, and certainly would not be complete.

Obama said he will bring U.S. troops home within 16 months of taking office, at a rate of one to two brigades per month—but would leave enough troops to fight Qaeda. And before he quit the Obama campaign after making headlines by calling Clinton "a monster," foreign policy adviser Susantha Power made clear that Obama would rather his plans to reach some ground,

selling the RBC loudly. "He will, of course, not rely on some plan that he's crafted in a presidential election or a U.S. senator," Evans said. He did follow his plan to the letter, it will involve drawing down combat troops only leaving tens of thousands in training and support positions, as well as guarding the U.S. Embassy.

Clinton, meanwhile, has promised to begin to reduce troop levels within 60 days of taking office, at a pace of one to two brigades a month. In a foreign policy speech on Monday, she called the Iraq war "another country's civil war, a war we cannot win." Yet her advisers have also suggested she might alter her plans, depending on violence on the ground.

Supporters of who moves into the White House, the future of Iraq will ultimately be decided by Iraq. In one scenario, no political resolution among the sectarian militias will be possible until a full-fledged civil war burns itself out and produces a winner. Under this view, the American presence, however

and in Arab provinces Sunni militia battling one another. "There is no possibility of reconciliation, no possibility of negotiation, and there is more fighting," Evans is going to see the various militia fight it out and someone will come out on top. Then they will be in a position to work things out. That is the best case scenario."

Rosen says that the next five years will be like the last. "Shiite fighting each other over influence and territory and Sunni residents fighting to regain territory they lost. What you won't have is a strong sense of state in Iraq," Rosen says. He finds it hard to even imagine another prime minister after Nouri al-Maliki, or a functioning central government. "There won't be an Iraq. A Somalia is quite likely," he says, warning the country falling under fragmented warlord control. He adds: "I hope I'm wrong."

The counterpart to the Somalia scenario is the possibility of a Syria on the Euphrates—in which the sectarian conflicts are not extinguished but at least reduced by an inter-

At some point American troop levels have to come down, but chaos doesn't have to follow

war, is at most delaying the inevitable. "I think the various scenarios will hold for a couple more months at least, unless a major incident happens to provoke one side or another. When the range ends, the militia in Baghdad will feel more free to operate," predicts Rosen, outlining a dark scenario. "The violence will resume at a more expedient fashion. You'll see actual attacks on neighborhoods, more of a war like in Somalia, and war within in Baghdad."

Conflicts will be fought in the smallest between militia, but they will have no common, he says, noting that 11 of the country's regional governments have closed their borders to internal Iraqi refugees. Jordan and Syria have severely tightened restrictions on Iraqi refugees. Rosen argues that the most constructive thing the international community can do now is to get past safe havens for the inevitable violence, or take them in as refugees and foreign aid.

Rosen expects a civil war will involve not just Sunnis fighting Shiites, but in the south Shiites fighting one another for dominance,

currently broken Iraq among ethnically separated groups, supported for years by foreign troops. "I am encouraged by the trends. They are definitely very favorable on top of a set of underlying conditions that are very bad," says Michael O'Hanlon, an Iraq analyst at the Brookings Institution who argues that Iraq should be looked at as a major building effort that should be expected to take five to 10 years.

O'Hanlon has been ending Iraq progress against 11 benchmarks, including establishing a professional civilian law, reaching an end to revenue sharing system, securing monetary law, passing a national budget, linking Sunni voters into the security forces, holding a fair election on the disputed northern oil city of Kirkuk, and purging extremists from government ministries and security forces. So far, he and collaborator Jason Campbell have given the Iraqis a score of five out of 11.

"If we stop, we have a chance of keeping this thing steady," says O'Hanlon, a Democrat who worries that Clinton and Obama



underestimate the importance of keeping large numbers of U.S. troops in Iraq. "These kinds of analysts tell you which way it can be in Iraq," he says. "I could not credulously reject someone that said the Sunni-Shia schism is so deep that in the end you will not get away from this structural conflict. You can prove that wrong. I just hope over time, because Iraq

politicians carrying on without us."

O'Hanlon does not accept the argument that militias will build it out to the end. "There is no rule of political science that tells you which way it can be in Iraq," he says. "I could not credulously reject someone that said the Sunni-Shia schism is so deep that in the end you will not get away from this structural conflict. You can prove that wrong. I just hope over time, because Iraq

NEW ORDER OUT OF OLD DISORDER Building a workable society will require a ongoing foreign presence but a less visible competition



has a history of Sunnis and Shiites working together, with our supervisors not outside of this."

He admits "there's an article of faith" that O'Hanlon points to the example of Bosnia, where there was no clear winner to the conflict. Instead, an outside force—NATO—told the ethnic leaders that if they did not cease fighting, they would be bombed. Then the international community spent 10 years building a consensus that would allow people on the ground to live in peace—after with a certain degree of ethnic separation. "When there was war, people don't live in each other's neighborhoods," O'Hanlon says. "They don't have to. They have to divide their property, their land, their houses. Reconstruction is probably not the right word. It's about reconstruction and compromise." In any case, he argues it's better than the alternative. "Even with chances of a mediocre outcome, I think it's worth attempting to end this century of collapse and regional war if we have," he says.

Anthony Cordesman, a respected military analyst at the Center for Strategic & International Studies, who once worked for McCain, stresses there is still time to work for U.S. forces in Iraq. He says it could take until 2015 to prepare Iraq forces to independently manage internal Iraq security, and until 2020 before Iraq's army, navy and air force could defend against foreign threats, for example. And at the rest of the to-do list is Iraq, from resolving the sharing of oil profits to encouraging militia onto the security forces to removing the police and the courts.

But Cordesman stresses that trying to pin Iraq's future is folly. "There isn't a single body scenario," he says. "There's a wide range of options but there isn't enough evidence to make them useful." At some point, American troop levels will have to come down—but that doesn't necessarily mean chaos will follow. "We can't sustain even six brigades indefinitely—but it's not clear you have to," Cordesman says. "You need partner units, coaches, and advisors, and be able to support Iraq forces, as power, mobility, and give it a degree edge over opponents. Since no one can predict the level of political actors in the future, we'll be with the removal of al Qaeda, trying to predict members today's concerns of those concerns that can reflect ideological competition but is not necessary."

And, like others, Cordesman cautions that the candidates' own promises are not reliable predictors of future actions. "I would parry that historically, U.S. campaigns have not been a particularly good indicator of what happens when someone is elected," he says. "We've had all kinds of statements by candidates. But presidents deal with reality." ■

Absolving green guilt

Carbon offsetting promises to make erasing your environmental footprint easy, but where's the money really going? BY JASON ECKY



Guilt is a powerful tool. Any mother knows that. And so, too, do those in the business of fighting global warming. Almost daily we're bombarded with evidence of our contribution to climate change (How high is your unleaded tank that's a tonne of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. Drive a car? That's 10 more tonnes. Don't stand in an email to save more to your carbon footprint. Short of curling up in a ball on the floor, what's a guilt-ridden consumer to do? Go ahead for carbon offsets, of course.

Hundreds of carbon offset providers have sprung up in recent years as individuals

between those looking to make up for their environmental indiscretions and projects that reduce greenhouse gases. The idea of putting to ease your conscience is nothing new. The Catholic Church perfected the practice in the 16th century when it sold indulgences as a way to wash away mortal sins. But the notion that a credit card transaction could ease one's responsibility for climate change is a new one. Alternatively, another company or organization may want to go green around the clock. In December, Amazon joined the ranks in allowing its customers to pay off sins against the light bulb. Then, in January, National Car Rental, with a similar program, made renting an SUV that uses more

BROWNS TREES (opposite) are poplars. **Coldplay** (left) planted trees in India to offset the amount of gas in the atmosphere. **Planting** trees is a popular off-set, since a hard-working deciduous tree absorbs more than one tonne of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Other common projects include geothermal heaters, wind power, and technology that captures methane from garbage dumps. Whatever the project, it truly counts as an offset, not the something that wouldn't have happened otherwise, and be verifiable by third parties.

At least, that's the promise. As carbon offsetting grows in popularity among business leaders, some environmentalists worry the practice is just making money, since it keeps wealthy consumers to crank up their lifestyles without consequences. What's more, a closer look at some offset programs reveals that a large chunk of the money consumers think is going to carbon dioxide-reducing projects is actually eaten up by expenses and salaries. And finding projects that legitimately reduce humanity's carbon footprint is highly expensive and prone to abuse. "Being climate-conscious is fashionable and people want the prestige of an action without having to make the sacrifice," says Kevin Smith, author of *The Carbon Nix* and Myx Offset Industries for your Climate Sin, and a researcher with the Environmental Institute in Amsterdam. "There are fundamental problems with how you calculate the supposed benefits of any carbon offset project. At best it's guesswork. At worst, it's people making stuff up, sticking a price tag on it and selling it to the public." The fact is, those who buy carbon offsets shouldn't be too quick to do so.

With greenhouse gases being tied to every rusty wheel part and making us hot, it's no wonder that why carbon offset programs offer an attractive solution to some. Virtually every human activity has a corresponding greenhouse emission. Every year, Canadians produce an average of 57 tonnes of the stuff each—enough to fill six hot air balloons. Carbon dioxide isn't the only greenhouse gas, but it's the most prevalent. Many consumers have vowed to reduce CO₂ emissions by 70 per cent by 2015. Most of those reductions, if they happen, will come through complex state and national agreements. But most carbon offset programs are a way for individuals to do their part, too. That's a hope businesses burnish their green halo don't have, either. The sector has grown from virtually nothing a few years ago to US\$900 million today, and is expected to top US\$4 billion by 2010.

The concept behind carbon offsets is simple in theory, if not in practice. An individual member of the public is asked to do something CO₂-friendly, and, in return, get some credit for their emissions, along with a price tag showing how much it will cost to make them go away. If the money then goes to projects that

in theory, reduce the amount of gas in the atmosphere. Planting trees is a popular off-set, since a hard-working deciduous tree absorbs more than one tonne of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Other common projects include geothermal heaters, wind power, and technology that captures methane from garbage dumps. Whatever the project, it truly counts as an offset, not the something that wouldn't have happened otherwise, and be verifiable by third parties.

But this is where it all goes tricky. For one thing, critics have said it's almost impossible to tell someone how big their carbon footprint is from a few questions on a website. And it attempts to put a precise value on a project's future environmental benefits are fraught with pitfalls. For starters, carbon offset projects are often located in off-developing countries, making it hard to ascertain their effectiveness. One favored project involves installing energy-efficient wood stoves in countries such as Uganda and Nicaragua, to replace the stoves which many households own. But tracking the impact of their usage is difficult. Likewise, some projects involve installing low-powered trickle water pumps in small villages to replace diesel engines. Last summer, one Irish newspaper reported that a farmer in India would have to run the pump two hours a day, for three years, just to offset one extra job in between Britain and India. In fact, critics argue such projects are little more than "carbon credit abuse"—an attempt by Western consumers to unload their burdens on the backs of developing nations.

Yet, of all the various types of offset projects out there, the ones that take the most kudos, surprisingly, are those involving trees. Stories abound of failed tree-planting campaigns. For instance, a few years ago the rock band Coldplay had 10,000 mango trees planted in India to cancel out the greenhouse emissions from their upcoming tour. Four years later, all the trees were dead, making the effort worthless.

It's a sorry story Dennis, the CEO and founder of Zorroforest, a not-for-profit offset firm with offices in both Canada and the U.S., has heard many times. As one of the larger players in the carbon offset market, Zorroforest handles direct carbon offset programs for Air Canada and has been working with the City of Toronto, a launched a tool allowing those in Hamilton to see how big their carbon footprint is, and how much they can reduce. Zorroforest also has a refund program, on a 100,000-tree reforestation project in Maple Ridge, B.C., for many of its clients. "They are carbon machines," he says. "Three per cent of the money goes along, and that's another bunch of carbon that's been taken out of the atmosphere," Dennis



COLDPLAY had 10,000 trees planted to offset emissions from one of their tours. Four years later, all the trees were dead.

says the problem isn't the trees themselves, but how some reforestation programs fail to account for unforeseen problems. (Dennis knows all about this—he used to provide risk-management software to financial services firms before selling the company. *Niperville* is, in 2009, for \$127 million.) And as those in charge of the Maple Ridge project have tried to anticipate every possible issue. It took two years to negotiate legal agreements that ensure the trees will be around for at least eight decades, while new young trees are planted as a backup database and regularly monitored. And trees will be replanted. As for the 10,000 trees in Canada, they come as a steep price. According to Air Canada, it's been their most costly offset over the last year, putting nearly 1,400 tonnes of greenhouse gas in Maple Ridge. That works out to nearly \$10 a tree. According to one forestry official in British Columbia, the cost to plant a tree and make sure it survives for the first five years is around \$10. There are obvious problems with comparing a quality commercial endeavor with one guided by laborer environmental motives, especially the early in the project's life, but it does raise ques-

tions about how much being carbon offset purchases get for their buck.

In many ways, voluntary carbon offset programs are a bit like charities. There is no concrete financial return for your investment, just the promise that your money will reduce your carbon footprint and help the environment. But as with some large charities, critics have noted concerns about the cost of many other providers. While larger players in Europe that have been around longer publish full annual reports and financial statements, such disclosure is still almost non-existent in Canada. Those offset purchasers who wish to know how much of their money goes to salaries and office equipment are left with little more than a single figure, buried on a Web page, that shows the "expenses." Typically, the number is around 30 to 40 per cent, but that still leaves many questions. What is the breakdown between salaries and other expenses? And does that figure include the costs incurred by both the carbon offsetter and the various projects they support?

There have been some attempts today to the numbers. Last year, the Tufts Climate Initiative at Massachusetts based Tufts Uni-



THE BIOGRAPHY series features Douglas Coupland as Phillips, Charlotte Gray as McClellan, and P. G. MacKinnon as Riches, among others.

SONGS OF OURSELVES



A new book series takes on the lives of Canada's boldest

BY LIANNE GEORGE • The idea that Canadian history is boring is, unfortunately, a part of our heritage. In fact, in the early '90s, Canadians' enthusiasm for their own roots was deemed so anemic that Charles Tron French CBE Foundation kicked off the propaganda campaign known as "Horrific Minutes"—described since as more devastating. Agnes MacPhail's quest for postal reform and the like—that aired during TV commercial breaks and in movie theatres. Almost 20 years later, this well-entrenched project has amounted to a dispirited collection of scenes of people in fancy clothes doing righteous things, ripe for spoofing by the likes of *The Prime Minister's Office*. (Spoofing ourselves also a part of our heritage.)

But great Canadians, like anyone truly remarkable, are not all spinners. We have our heroes, yes, but they are not without their contradictions, villainous streaks and tragic flaws. Many of our greatest adventures and misadventures were inextricably popular to their own time—contested rogues or deviants or others just annoying. In truth, our predecessors are so much rounder, dynamic bunch that we've been led to believe.

This, says author and essayist John Ralston Saul, is because the stories of those who made Canadian history meeting—yes, even g—were

increasingly lost in a haze of discourse on constitutional reform and transfer payments. We teach a boring version of history to ourselves, he says, and then we compensate for it with our strange, toothless parables. We tell ourselves, "Everybody loves us! We love everybody!" Not sure, he says.

So what then is the best way to tell the Canadian story? Given its place in the hands of Canada's best storytellers. An ambitious new biography series from Penguin Canada called *Extraordinary Canadians* has done just that. Ralston Saul, in good effect, challenged 18 of the best contemporary writers in Canada to profile 18 galvanizing Canadians—from Louis Riel and J. M. Macpherson to Marshall McLuhan and Marlene Dietrich—in a manner buffing their outsized accomplishments and personalities. Wars and all. If all goes according to plan, the aggregate effect will be a character-driven, postwar/modern history of this country.

For the project to work, says Ralston Saul, it was important that the authors involved had a personal connection to their subjects. "We had to ask, what made it logical? Why did they fit in together?" The medical training of Gillian Triggs, winning author Vincent Lam, for instance, gave him special insight into the legacy of Tommy Douglas, the father of universal health care. Douglas Coupland, who speculates on the future of communication in his art and fiction, was a natural choice to write the life of Marshall McLuhan.

The goal, therefore, is one of true collaboration between writer and subject. In her book Nellie McClung, Charlotte Gray explores

how her subject's inclusive political stance informed her own understanding of consumerism in the Canadian prairies, where she was born. In *Lord Beaverbrook*, David Adams Richards presents an empathetic but unflinching biography of jaded maverick Max Aitken, who built from the same soil. New Brunswick town he himself was raised in.

Why were these 18 people important? Why are they still important? In reaching to answer these questions, the authors' intimate studies of their subjects become just so crucial in their chronological tales. "One of the reasons novelists are usually quite good at writing them, like this is that they're used to asking, 'Can I figure out what some thing means to me in a way that will translate to other people?'" Ralston Saul says. "Novelists are like mirrors."

The *Extraordinary Canadians* books will be released over a period of three years, three at a time. On April 1, the first batch will be published—including Gray's *Nellie McClung*, Adams Richards' *Lord Beaverbrook*, and Emily Carr by Lewis DeSoto. Macdonald will publish an excerpt from each title. Accompanying the book series is a TV documentary series to be broadcast in the fall.

"We're at the end of a half-century," says Ralston Saul. "Socially and politically the questions are changing, and we're not sure what the next one is going to look like. I think it's really valuable time to sit down, throw everything in the air and think about our selves." What better way to start, he figures, than fan our top history minds to work their focus on what we've been? Maybe the rest of us will be critical to follow. ■

PHOTO TOP: GUY LAWRENCE/GETTY IMAGES; BOTTOM: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES

This is more than a coffee mug



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The background of the entire page is a dense collage of numerous small images depicting Jesus Christ. These include traditional religious paintings such as the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and various scenes from his life. There are also more contemporary or secular portrayals, some showing him with tattoos, in modern clothing, or in abstract forms. The collage uses a variety of artistic styles, from classical oil painting to modern graphic design.

THE JESUS PROBLEM

The newest view of Christ—activist, politician, not very Christian—is hard to square with the Bible's. Now some believers even say the faith might be better off without him.

BY BRIAN KETHUNE

THE LEGACY OF the exalted Christ is starkly split: Western culture, like Jesus found everywhere, from ancient mosaics and medieval churches to art galleries and the boxing ring.

"Whom do men say that I am?" Jesus asks early in the Gospels, asked in the other Gospel [Mark 12]. You always hear the other question of the fish founded in his name. The answer has dominated everything from core doctrine to the authority of the clergy lived during his lifetime. Jesus's followers had differing answers; he was a rabbi with a new approach to Jewish law, he was the rightful claimant to the throne of David. After his death, it took more than three centuries of often violent contention, suppression, and historical controversy before answers emerged that still define mainstream Christianity: Jesus was the Messiah, the son of God and the Virgin Mary both fully divine and fully human, crucified for our sins, he rose from the dead and will eventually judge humanity. Orthodox's victory has never been final, or else there would have been no Inquisition. Still, reinforced by church and state, and by belief in the New Testament as an exact account of events [the "Gospel truth"], the concept of the divine Christ, our lord and savior, became embedded in Western civilization.

That legacy still dominates Western responses to Jesus today, affecting not just what we feel about him, but the attitudes of Jesus's secular products. But over the past century, historians, archeologists, textual and linguistic scholars in a steadily more secular West, unable to accept the miracle-working Christ of tradition, have uncovered the all too human way in which early Christians hammered out their dogma and holy scripture, recovered startlingly unfamiliar texts—such as the Gnostic Gospel of Judas, in 2006—held dear by the losers in the long ago orthodoxy wars, and arrived at new interpretations of Jesus based on the contrast of

his life, his essential Jewishness and the socio-political stance of first-century Palestine. For large swaths of the devout, little has changed. Fundamentalist Protestant churches called because of their fundamentalist principles, one of which is assurance that the whole of the Bible is the literal word of God looked hard at what was happening in the modern world and refused to yield an inch to modern science or Biblical scholarship. Other churches, like the Orthodox or Roman Catholic, who possess a body of tradition to buttress their uniqueness, are open to viewing, and reworking, parts of the Bible—in particular in the Old Testament—while holding fast to the divine Christ of the New Testament. Their Christ too remains an embled figure, as does, incidentally, the Jesus envisaged by so many scholars. Biblical experts have tended to fail (in much as think) that Jesus must have been a great moral teacher—and even a pioneering feminist—so uninterestingly holy that some

Gone is the miraculous: no virgin birth, no debating his elders. One group is sure Jesus said less than a fifth of what's attributed to him.

of his disciples turned him into a god. In his own words (and Giuseppe Penone's now survey of the latest research), *The Jesus Project: The Quest for His Authentic Message* (Anansi), for instance, Christ emerges as a revolutionary sage, a man for the ages whose "words and deeds are sublime." Even how Jesus became a Christian (Kandice Brouse, by Brian Wilson, a religious studies professor at Toronto's York University—which is primarily concerned with arguing that St Paul and later "Christians" hijacked Jesus the Jewish rabbi through a campaign of anti-Semitism—Jesus still emerges as "a teacher of great insight."

But despite the common celebration of Jesus Christ, a chasm exists between the devoted followers of the divine Christ and the seekers

SOURCES: MARCO TAVARO/GETTY IMAGES; DOCKHORN/SHUTTERSTOCK; ARND BRONKHORST/LIAISON ART; BETTY SHAPIRO; ROMEO BARONCINI/RETNA; MICHAEL SPREHN/LOPES; DAVID BYRNE/SYGMA; GETTY IMAGES; GEORGINA HILL/THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE; ADRIANO DI CANTONE'S WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

BY BRIAN KETHUNE

THE LEGACY of the exalted Christ is sunk deep in Western culture, his image found everywhere, from ancient mosaics and medieval churches to art galleries and the modern day

"Whom do many say that I am?" Jesus' answer says to his disciples, answer the editor George [March 1978] has always been the same question of the flesh found in his name. The answer has dominated everything that comes down to the authority of the clergy throughout the Middle Ages. Jesus' followers had learned to know him as a rabbi, a man of Jewish approach to Jewish law, he was the rightful approach to the throne of David. After his death, it took more than three centuries of often violent confrontations, suppression, and historical controversy before a tension emerged that still defines modern Christianity: Jesus was the Messiah, the son of God and the Virgin Mary, both fully divine and fully human, crucified for our sins, he rose from the dead and will come again to judge humanity. Orthodox history has never been final, or else there would never have been an Inquisition. Still, reinforced by church and state, and by belief in the New Testament as an eternal source

of his life, his moral, Jewishness and the socio-political aspect of his resurrection.

The large words of the devout, little has changed. Further, some Protestant churches called before their fundamental principles, one of which is assurance that the words of the Bible in the words of God have been true. It was happening, as in modern world and culture, it was a sign to modern science or biblical scholarship. Other churches like the Orthodox and Roman Catholic, who possess a body of tradition to burnish their argument, are open to viewing and reworking parts of the Bible—particularly in the Old Testament—while holding fast to the New Testament of the New Testament. Their Christ was crucified, a crucified figure, as does, ultimately, the Jesus revealed by many scholars. Biblical myths have tended to fade (as much as history) that Jesus was not a foreign moral teacher—and even a pioneering figure—no so unacceptably but that some

Gone is the miraculous: no virgin birth, no debating his elders. One group is sure Jesus said less than a fifth of what's attributed to him.

of events (the "Gospel of the Son"), the concept of the divine Christ, sacred and secular, became enfolded in Western civilization.

This legacy still dominates Western responses to Jesus today, affecting not just what the faithful profess, but the standards of Jesus's secular admirers. But over the past century, historians, archaeologists, literary and linguistic scholars in a steadily more secular West, unable to accept the miracle-working Christ of tradition, have uncovered the all too human way in which early Christians hammered out their dogms and holy scripture, revealed startlingly as faithful men—such as the Galilean Carpenter of Nazareth—built their faith on the corner of

his disciples' turned him into a god.

In Vancouver's West End (Greenpeace International co-founder) Bart Giger's new survey of the latest research, *The Joy of Jesus: Questions for His Admirers' Messianic Message* (Amazon), for instance, Christ emerges as a revolutionary figure, a man for his times whose "words and deeds are sublime." Even in how Jesus became a Christian (Randall House), by Barrie Witt, a religious studies professor at Western's York University—who's primarily concerned with appealing to St. Paul and later "Christians" rejected Jesus the Jewish rabbi through a misreading of his Sermon—Jesus still emerges as "a teacher of great insight."

But despite the common celebration of Jesus Christ, a chasm exists between the devout followers of the divine Christ and the secular

[illegible]

of the flow of history into that chaotic field the liberal church, according to Germ Vesper, author of *Who's With God?* (Harper-Collins), a passionately argued case for open Christian church. Vesper, a pastor of West Hill United Church in suburban Toronto and a leading Canadian voice in progressive Christianity, on the radical edge of what is already the most liberal denomination in Canada. The liberal Christian church, Vesper writes, is the original wildcatter of the recent tradition—destroying biblical scholarship, and its liturgical church that has revealed more gently and in a very real sense—has successfully with the implications of its discoveries.

Committed to the ideas of biblical study and scholarly truth, but devoted to their own religious traditions, the liberal churches were unable to either turn their backs on modernity or to embrace it fully. So liberalized had to turn the now shaky parts of the Gospel (the miracles, for instance) into metaphors, Vesper writes, in order to keep them from crumpling and finally, superfluously intact. A conspiracy of silence about beliefs also played, and still plays, its part, the adds in an interview: "The liberal clergy have an unspoken agreement with congregants—you are nothing and we'll say nothing. If the clergy do speak about the dark in basic doctrine, the result is at best a lot of gas, up to just loud noise and breakdown. There is no place of safety for them."

The code has been a series of compromised integrity—"If you can't lead without love is superior," why not say that?" and institutional failure. "We have all watched the piping wound on the right grow as those who were the 'left' looked for them more clearly have left for more conservative denominations happy to give it to them," she notes. "But the wound on the left has gone unnoticed and has hemorrhaged into nothingness as religious groups have become spiritual questers unconnected with church." It's beyond time for liberal Christianity, whose heritage and responsibility this is, to act, writes Vesper. "Those who recognize the bible's claim to be the word of God in the mirror in the sub with the baby," are the ones who must show that message as with the barbarian. And that means, besides other painful changes, a real, radical look at the words and deeds of the bible's central figure.

Half a century ago in More Christianity, C.S. Lewis, standing from the perspective of a converted Christian, wrote about the difficulty (while attempting to keep his moral authority) that the task couldn't be done. "A case

where I was merely a man and said the sort of thing Jesus must not be a great moral teacher [but] a fanatic, on a level with the man who says he is a psychologist," he wrote. "He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to 'traditional Christians would agree, substance, is the last sentence, the words 'the authors of the Gospel' for 'his' and so would almost everyone else. For the truth



He taught acceptance of oppression, and derided any who disagreed; even his moral teachings were flawed, critics say



A DEEP CRASH exists between the devout followers of a divine Christ and the teachers of the Jesus of history

lately edited New Testament is fraughting with its agenda, detailing the transformation of Jesus of Nazareth into Jesus Christ, the Jesus of faith.

What you take from Scripture depends on how you read it. For Lewis, who accepted the historical accuracy of the Gospels, if not the

whole of biblical exegesis (such as the apocalyptic in Genesis), Christ is not just the prophet of the Sermon on the Mount, and the healer of the sick. He is also the figure who unites the New Testament's truly riveting statements about eternal life and death into a story that promotes to agitate humanity into shock and awe, shepherding the former to heaven and casting the latter "into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41). It was Jesus again who said that on Judgment Day, even those who preach in his name would hear the words, "I never knew you, depart from me" (Matthew 23). Such a figure, in Lewis's opinion, was the only a moral man, could not be judged and

but modern historians swing all that away, along with the miraculous elements, ending the whole of Jesus's childhood. No virgin birth is found only in two Gospels, they point out, and it's clear that St. Paul, the earliest writer in the New Testament, had no time for the idea. No was not, no heavenly choir of angels at the stable manger, no debate the dates at age 12—all of it retroactively applied by his followers. More crucial losses are words claimed as Christ's own. A decade ago, the Jesus Seminar, the most famous (and now mostly gone) group of biblical critics, using comparative history and textual analysis, ended up being

sure Christ had no idea of what was attributed to him.

Miracles are repeated versus where Jesus is referred to himself, particularly in an earlier way, such as, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), and verses reflective less of his teachings and more of struggle to control the nation as he believed he died. "Thus as Peter and upon the rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). And since the seminar was convened Jesus did not preach an imminent, apocalyptic end to the world, but instead a message about how to establish the kingdom of God on earth, the rejected 80 per cent of his sayings also included all the judgmental declarations. Not all scholars are in full agreement with the seminar (some fundamentalist organizations, unsurprisingly, have referred to it as "a lot of noise"), but the broad conclusions are widely accepted in the field.

Jesus's nonstatements of the authentic Jesus assembly follows these lines. His primary message was what some scholars define as the oldest remnants of that "unbroken" the Gospels (Mark and Matthew, and the Q source). The Jesus that is the jewel of the treasure trove of Gospel and Christian writings, found at Nag Hammadi in Egypt in 1945, was rejected by the orthodox 1,500 years ago, but

the 114 papyrus fragments of the New Testament, attributed to Jesus, have made a few things among historians. Q is a hypothetical document, a sort of collection of sayings and parables that the material source of the Gospels of Luke and Matthew that did not come from Mark's Gospel, their other main source.)

The "radical, American-speaking, Jewish Jesus" who emerges in Weyler's book makes no divine claims, requires no supernatural beliefs on the part of his hearers, and demands action now. The Jesus, Christ would tell his audience of peasants and day-laborers, were fortunate to be suffering, for that brought them closer to the kingdom of God. The rich, especially the temple elite obsessed with rote piety, are far from God. Seek his kingdom within yourself, don't worry about food or clothing, accept your daily bread and share it, love your enemies, forgive others so you wish to be forgiven. God's kingdom is here, now, for those who have eyes to see.

Although many historians would not find Jesus's message as radical a break from the past as Weyler does, at his core Jesus, Weyler's Jesus fits comfortably with the historical figure now portrayed by almost all scholars. What kind of Jew is an entirely different matter. More than a decade ago, John Dominic Crossan, one of the most prominent liberal biblical critics, noted how that some darker types of Jew

like Jesus, emerging from political revolution are to characterize some Jews, including Weyler's Galilean peasant preacher at odds with the Judaism of Jerusalem's Temple elite, have emerged since. Many of them are much more worldly than Weyler's, and just as moral.

Consider the book of the "family tree" who emerges in James Tabor's *The Jesus Dynasty* (2006). Traditional Christianity has always had trouble with Christ's "brotherhood"—Jesus, James, Simon, Judas and unnamed sisters. Orthodox Christianity accepts the brothers as step-children, the children of Joseph's first marriage. Protestants take them as half-brothers, the children of Mary and Joseph born after Jesus, the sons of Mary and God. Roman Catholics, who profess the doctrine of Mary's perpetual virginity, have to view them as cousins. Every time they appear to scripture identified as family, the Gospel writers stress they are not among his followers. That means they have to guess over the fact that St. Paul writes that Thimotheus "Christ approved" Jesus, and that James "Jesus's older brother" relative is a family descendant—both proof people once over all their followers—and because leader of the Jesus movement in Jerusalem.

In Tabor's family saga, Jesus and his cousin John the Baptist considered themselves to be

the two mainstays John in a descendant of Moses's brother Aaron, was to be the new high priest, Jesus, the descendant of King David, the new king of the Jews. But neither James was more than Jesus's brother. He was the "beloved disciple" of the Gospel of John, only rarely mentioned to be John himself by most Christians (although Mary Magdalene was the favorite as the "beloved" of *De Veneranda*



'Why do we need a "revolutionary" voice from two millennia ago?' asks Vesper, a pastor. 'We have fabulous ideas of our own.'



NEEPIING THE FATH: 'The Jesus Outside' a 2004 bronze by Wim De Vries, a painted wall in southern India, a 3rd-century fresco

and many Samaritan theologians. And Jesus's other brothers, in their rejecting his message, are actually looking at him just as the Jesus of the apostles.

Jesus's Jerusalem followers were the original "Christians," although Basil Wilton would argue they would rather recognize

himself as the new. More commonly called Christian Christians, from a Hebrew word meaning "poor ones," they were Jesus's observers. Jesus, as the new king of the Jews, who regarded him as a divine anointed prophet but not a divine Jesus. These concepts, embodied by James—known as "the just" to Jesus as was Christianity—were in fact radically different. And, under the rule of the "new" family, they were that dangerous strand among the Jesus movement, even while Paul too loved traveling the Mediterranean coasting Greece.

Most scholars argue it's impossible to know what Paul Christianity might have taken if the Jerusalem church had not become caught up in the greatest crucifixion ever visited on the religious traditions of ancient Israel. When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and its temple in 70 CE, the Greek church began its ascendancy. By the second century, the form of orthodoxy began to turn on the Eucharist, and by the fifth century they disappeared from history.

In current scholarly circles, Jesus emerges as ever more Jewish and ever more human—a teacher, a rabbi, a claimant to

himself as a messiah—those who were transformed by Paul, a preacher of grace, in such a far from his Jewish roots, was the divine son of manhood. But even as these ideas are far from orthodox Christianity and far from the liberal and even more, they are increasingly irrelevant for people who are Christians. They long ago lost their place in the divine Christ, and their ascent to which of the evolving, paradigm best up turns the historical Jesus is fading.

Where Costa Vesper looks at the emerging historical Jesus, she sees no rock on which to erect a church. "In trying to capture exactly what he said, we have found, quite by accident, that what he said has little power." But what he wrote up the Jesus legend in terms of its volatility and usefulness for the church today, she considers the entire Gospel tradition—most just the Jesus messiah and child of the scholars and apostolic writers, but the divine Christ too. It's all part of the Christian heritage as he is. If the liberal church is going to refuse to live the implications of its own beliefs, then what matters is what is in the bible that has been given to us by the Christian. "If we say we believe Jesus, we are claiming," he says, "we believe Jesus, we are claiming, we are claiming that we agree with all of his ideas, including the last ones."

Looking over the New Testament, Vesper notes numerous bad ideas, some of them deep within Jesus's core message. His teach-

ing about love and forgiveness long predates him, with his own Jewish tradition and without. And these are the helpful parts of his beliefs, which, Vesper argues, mix nicely with post-liberal Christians no longer as open to divorce, hell, eternal punishment. The taught message is in opposition, "A different sort of all help is ending slavery, racism, parental hierarchy, and so on." There is dispute and division for those who don't agree with him, "but I suggest that we now hold dialogue, diversity and community as higher values."

Living without care for the future, keeping all attention on the present, giving all we have to the poor, an other key part of the authentic teaching as identified by Weyler and others. This utopian idealism was perfectly natural to the hopes of an oppressed peasant society, Vesper writes, but humans have never managed to put it into practice, and surely never will. "Worry to set this way only serves 'to abdicate the responsibilities we have to one another—consciousness, ethical oversight of our resources as a more prudent and potentially heretical response.' In short, 'Jesus's moral teaching is not outstanding,' and it's impossible to craft a moral high ground from his life, words and sayings." His work is dead to many people. The world has changed. The world doesn't make sense any more.

The new Jesus is more human, but that's irrelevant for many Christians, who have already lost their stake in a divine Christ

And they aren't necessary. "Why do we need a 'revolutionary' voice from two millennia ago to guide us? We have biblical ideas of our own, that are commonly used by leading to do them back to Jesus and Scripture. What if we were recorded destroying his environment, would that mean we'd no longer need to be environmentally sensitive, or have to ignore the environment?"

Vesper isn't so much prepared for the obvious questions she faces as asked to them. She's often asked, with various degrees of incredulity and indignation here, in the name of God or Love (if the profane), the one call herself is Christian. Because, she replies, her Christianity, like that of the Pharisees, is more a way of acting than a way of belief. "Finding a Christian is about taking out of my mind all those things that are of selfish and my effort to live right with myself, with my relationships and with my planet," Vesper says. "And removing those things that are toxic."

Not at the same occasion, at least to Vesper personally, except that Christianity the word Christian is an acronym for the other religious churches. "People are not being told they're not Christians," Vesper says. "It's so fundamental, even when we don't really, literally believe them, that we don't

want to be told that we don't belong." Vesper doesn't "want to tear anyone's faith out of their hearts," and doesn't want to see that happen to progressives either. Three years ago, after her views became known to the wider United Church, a woman was sent

A CHRIST statue felled by an earthquake in a Good Friday procession, a sick girl holds on to her faith, inside the A3-Radio church



called at a meeting of the church's governing body to subject her to what she only half-jokingly calls a "heresy" trial. She escaped a trial only by a vote of 14 to 11.

She wouldn't be surprised to undergo an actual trial this time around, after *What or Whatnot* God arrives in bookstores this week. In the very broad United Church, do try an expected to be in "essential" agreement with the articles of faith, "and this book," she says gingerly, "well establish just how elastic that agreement is." Vesper doesn't seem unduly concerned with the prospect of trial or with the possibility of losing, except for what it would mean to others the next about. "Saying that I don't belong is saying that my supportive congregation doesn't belong, and that would be tragic." Her reaction to the possibility of effective communication is based up with her answer to the other question frequently heard at her why bother? "If there's no divine Christ, no miracles, no salvation, no life after death, no God—what is the point of church at all?"

Part of the answer is practical. "Because we are influencing each other and the world," she says matter of factly. "Because we have the means to do something about it—churches

have so many outlets, no other single organization can disseminate important messages like the church can." Or provide, in the sense of care culture, the sense of

community that churches can offer. And because she does not want to abandon the field to fundamentalists.

Not many Christians will be able to follow Vesper down her path, even if they are conscious of the problem she's attempting to solve: recovering a religion of revealed truth and sacred scriptures grounded in 2,000-year-old experiences, with all humanity has learned since, not just about the natural world, but about the human roots of their faith. Most will not even accept Vesper as a fellow Christian. But there is no denying the problems she identifies is real for many. Millions of Christians are unsettled with the balance of faith and reason in their religion, or unconcerned with it, but millions of others remain in doubt only by wilfully averting head and heart. Those who cannot do that, or cannot say longer, will continue to seek a way out. ■



GIRL POWER HELPS BEAT A COMA

Devi Hattiwady, a.k.a. a Singer Spice, is credited with helping Jessica Knight, a teenage missing child from Kanan, England, snap out of a coma. The girl's mother told a British tabloid that Knight, who was stabbed 50 times after school one day in January, would have died long before the brief time she was alive when the Singer Girl sang on her during a surprise hospital visit. Knight, who also suffered a stroke since the attack, woke up the next morning.

While this level of human support for community groups is not the norm, it does underline what looks like a trend in the funding of nonprofit sector organizations

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



The Business of Community

By Julia Howell

COVER DESIGN BY MOIRA R. FINE

Canada's nonprofit sector is the second largest in the world. Through 161,000 organizations it weaves an intricate web of supports and services that touch the lives of all Canadians and shape our country's identity and values. From local sports clubs to environmental cleanup initiatives, symphony orchestras to crisis phone lines, these organizations are driven by a mission to serve the public good. But what happens when profit motives meet with mission? Businesses in Canada are increasingly acting as catalysts for community building, facilitating employee citizenship through volunteering, and responding directly to needs for financial and professional support. What motivates business to merge profit and altruism and what does this mean for mission-driven groups across the country? A groundbreaking study from Imagine Canada sets out to map this landscape for the first time.

The Canadian Association of Food Banks relies on corporate Canada for 80% of its budget. The additional \$16 million in donated food they collect comes entirely from business. "Without business support we simply wouldn't exist," states Katherine Schmidt, the Association's Executive Director. Local food banks that are represented by the association are served by over 720,000 Canadians each month, 39% of whom are children.

While this level of business support for community groups is not the norm, it does underline what looks like a trend in the funding of nonprofit sector organizations

The experience of Canadian nonprofits and charities suggests that the role of business in addressing community needs is growing. Imagine Canada Vice President Jocelyne Doo references her work in the sector, spanning twenty years. "It used to be about writing a cheque. Today there are many more ways businesses are contributing to the work of nonprofits. The extent and level of engagement is up and nonprofits across the country are realizing the benefits of this support." While most Canadians see businesses as being exclusively focused on generating profit, increasingly business sees it also has a role to give back. And according

Imagine Canada, a national charity with offices in Toronto, Ottawa and Calgary. We look into and out for Canada's charities and nonprofits. Our research and public policy expertise both increased philanthropy and public engagement; our tools and resources strengthen the sector together, they contribute to social progress and vibrant communities.



In a major new research survey by Imagine Canada, 87% of Canadian businesses contribute because it helps build strong and healthy communities, which is good for business.

Business Contribution to Canadian Communities is a first-ever survey of 2,300 Canadian companies that tracks all the ways in which they give. Previous research only told a partial picture and involved small sample sizes. These new findings cover the full spectrum of community investment practices among businesses both large and small.

In addition to analyzing cash contributions, such as donations and sponsorships, it includes in-kind support (contributions of goods, products and services) as well as employee volunteering. According to the survey, 51% of businesses provide goods and products to nonprofits, 43% provide services and 40% encourage their employees to volunteer. Cash donations represent the largest area of support with 78% of businesses involved. All told, the



The Canadian Women's Foundation supports programs like the Kidder Cup's Club.



Some volunteers at Jewish Urban Agriculture program of the Sep Community Food Centre.

most majority of Canadian businesses (91%) provide some form of support to charities and nonprofits.

Canada's 165,000 nonprofit organizations address a huge range of needs at the community. From providing shelter, food and healthcare to Canadians in dire life situations to protecting our wildlife, maintaining a physically active population, telling our diverse stories and preserving our cultural heritage, nonprofits are big players in sustaining the health and vitality of life in Canada. With more than two million workers, the sector is seven times larger than the motor vehicle manufacturing industry and over three times larger than agriculture and the accommodation and food services industries, contributing 6.9% to the GDP. As the second largest nonprofit sector in the world, increasingly our nonprofits are playing a frontline role once expected from government.

"Nonprofits are pillars in our communities," says Georgia Benisty-Schwartz, President & CEO of Imagine Canada, a national charity that looks into and out for Canada's charities and nonprofits. It engages both nonprofits and businesses in its membership programs because it knows their partnerships are essential to ensuring that nonprofits have the wherewithal to meet their expanding roles in society. "Canadians don't look

exclusively to government anymore to address the big issues and it's through nonprofits that we can directly express our commitment to each other and our democratic values."

83% of businesses surveyed consider giving a good thing to do, irrespective of financial returns.

Over two million Canadians express their support to through their wallets. Statistic Canada's regular roundup of Canadian generosity, the Canada Survey of Giving Volunteering and Participating (authored by Imagine Canada), reveals that 22 million Canadians – 85% of the adult population made a financial donation in 2006. Twelve million (45% of the population) also volunteered their time to a cause, and many are doing so through their place of work.

"Canadians spend more time at work than almost anywhere and they don't push their generosity at the door," says Mike Meadows who heads up Imagine Canada's Caring Company program. By engaging businesses in partnering with nonprofits and charities, the Caring Company program recognizes that business is a catalyst for doing good. In referencing

the multi-year commitment from Telcel Corporation to fund the Business Contributions research, Meadows makes clear that it's not business's role to single-handedly lead the effort to solve community problems but that by acting as a facilitator it can have a large influence. Telcel's Florence Murphy echoes this sentiment: "Many Canadian charities and nonprofits rely on support from Canadian businesses. The information revealed through this extensive survey provides valuable insight and guidance to help raise the bar on community investment."

In 2007 Xerox got over 600 employees out volunteering in their communities. After an employee survey told them that time was the biggest obstacle to volunteering, they decided to do something about it. Now a staple at the company, its signature Day of Sharing offers employees a day off work to lend their labour to the cause of their choice. Some workers volunteer on their own, others do so in a group or within their departments.

According to Yolene Lemaux who is Xerox's Director of Employee Engagement and Wellness, the latter has added bonus of contributing to team building. "We had senior people in our Marketing Department with their time off and getting their hands dirty with us at a tree-planting," Xerox's Lemaux says. She then took the time to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, another department worked on a home build for Habitat for Humanity and thirty people did the intense two-day sixty kilometer walk to end breast cancer. "Giving back has been part of our culture forever," says Lemaux. Xerox has also begun relationship with the Canadian Women's Foundation with Xerox employees collecting and delivering clothing and other items to local women's shelters. In addition, their cash contribution to the Foundation leveraged an outpouring of donations at

CWF's annual benefit event. "With Xerox's lead gift we raised an unprecedented \$50,000 in ten months. It was staggering," states Kathryn Bebrook, Vice President, Development and Communications.

Of the 2,300 companies surveyed through Imagine Canada's new corporate citizenship research, 85% indicate that they invest in nonprofits and charities because it fits with company traditions and values. At Time Homes, this is an extension of their founder, Wayne Choi's vision and values. Choi began giving back to the community even before the company started to pull a profit, committing \$100,000 annually to the Kelo Cancer Care Foundation. Today, the integration of community in their corporate values is embedded in their name: Trust Respect Integrity Community Opportunity.

Social services, health and sports and recreation organizations are the most likely types of nonprofits to be supported by businesses.

While virtually all companies are engaged in that work in some way, few have formalized their giving. Just over 20% have regular, ongoing programs and less than 10% have written policies.

Large companies are an exception, however, with 80% having regular ongoing programs for their contractors. Scotiabank's work in this area is structured, spanning all the support areas identified in the Imagine Canada research, and permeating the company.

Requests under \$10,000 are managed through its five regional offices across the country and those larger are overseen by head office. In addition to sorting applications from outside



All the marathon, Scotiabank Group's Charity Challenge raises cash for Toronto nonprofits.



Xerox wholeheartedly supports Imagine Canada.

Willingness to lend a hand is the hallmark of truly great people.

Whether in the office or in the larger community, we are proud to stand as a Caring Company.



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Artist and client at Riverside Kids Rehab, Adria Iamco shares her work with Scott Hough, President and CEO of Hough at the opening of the ScottHough Creative Arts Studio.

community groups, at the ScottHough Group will also apply for up to \$1,000 to support the community organization of their choice. And using a team approach, the pooling of donations of two or more staff "ambassadors" can be matched by the bank up to a maximum of \$5,000. These initiatives are all about employee engagement and can't be reinvented by nonprofits. Their Retail Marketing area looks at sponsorships that align with the company's marketing efforts such as the NEEL and the ScottHough Toronto Winterfest Marathon. A feature of the marathon, the ScottHough Group Charity Challenge has raised more than \$2.85 million to date for local charities.

The top three causes that businesses support are: children (68%); youth (55%); people with physical disabilities (40%).

Like many companies, the bank is committed to supporting the communities in which they live and work, both in Canada and abroad. From the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program to the United Way of Halifax-Dartmouth, the Northern Lights Regional Health Foundation in Alberta to Université du Québec à Montréal, ScottHough's investments cover the country and the sector.

For Investors Group, community investment is engrained in the company's DNA. According to Richard Irish who sets the strategic direction for the company's corporate citizenship activities, giving back is part and parcel of their brand. "People who care is our brand attribute at our company," says Irish. And they approach the work from a grassroots perspective. Their network of 4,000 financial planners

across the country is their link to the community. They see their work in terms of having a long-term relationship with clients, being involved every step of the way through a client's life and providing support through what he refers to as "life events."

Retirement is one of those milestones and like many businesses, capitalizing on the 55+ demographic is a top priority. "We're interested in what people think they will be doing when they approach this phase and how this corresponds to what they actually do in retirement." Along with Volunteer Canada, a national charity that aims to promote, enhance and advance volunteers, they are working on a project on volunteering and healthy aging. Previous research has already established links between volunteering and mental health, suggesting that it can improve mood and self-identity, reduce social isolation and loneliness. Some reports have also linked volunteering with physical well-being. The healthy aging project evolved in close collaboration with Investors Group to become a three-year initiative—a run error in philanthropy particularly in businesses we often precluded from entering any external agreements beyond one fiscal year. "Plugged into the sector," is how Volunteer Canada's Wendy Mitchell describes Investors Group. "They know

what the trends are and they find the best partnerships for them that link with their business."

For Dan O'Grady, who manages community partnerships and investments at Enbridge, this work is a key underpinning of the company's commitment to corporate social responsibility. While he makes clear that reputation management is a driver—maintaining good relations with shareholders, employees, customers—he approaches the task like a mission. Their work in this area is shaped by a "social vision statement" that drives their community investment work. "Our community investment programs are holistic," says O'Grady. "We recognize the interdependencies in communities and that isolating our support in one sector or one location would not be in the best interest of the community."

With this in mind they have carved out a somewhat unique niche in including support for arts & culture in the mix. Only 30% of the businesses surveyed by Imagine Canada provide support to arts and culture. "The arts reflect the soul of our communities," says O'Grady. One example of this commitment is Enbridge's long-standing sponsorship of the Alberta Theatre Projects' playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays. One of their Ontario offices, among many projects they support as annual performers at the Shaw Festival. "It's our social license to operate in the Niagara Region," says Murray Sousa,



Investors Group supports National Volunteer Week in April each year.



Enduring Partnerships... Thriving Communities

We know there's more to life than dollars and cents. There's passion, endurance, commitment and community. As part of the community, Investors Group is proud to share in all of life's special moments.

Imagine  Enriching Community One volunteer at a time.

IG Investors Group

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The Business of Community

www.imaginecanada.ca



Scene from left of the Enbridge playRites Festival

Manager, Community Relations. On opening night they host Enbridge stakeholders as a way of thanking them for their support while also acknowledging their contributions to the community. Enbridge takes its community engagement work seriously with nine people working full-time in this area across its three business groups.

On the social-services side, where the local share of business support is going, O'Grady references their commitment to Families in Transition that provides supports for homeless families in Calgary to move to more stable living conditions. He describes passionately how employees welcome those families into the Enbridge "family" through a series of employee-led activities involving fundraising, attendance at theatrical events and a program whereby employees stock children's backpacks with supplies for the fall return to school. Over two-thirds of their Calgary-based employees have been involved, says O'Grady.

87% of companies contribute because it helps build strong and healthy communities, which is good for business.

As community investment objectives become increasingly integrated in the corporate mandate they will undoubtedly become a critical part of the support system for Canada's nonprofits and charities. The Foodbank Association's Katherine Schmidt appreciates the value of this. "We all have a role to play. Small and large business, governments, individuals, families, all of us can and need to contribute to making our country a great place to live. Everyone has a place and we all need to be at the table."

the employees themselves, which is quite demanding."

Imagine Canada's research into business giving sheds light on some important motivations behind corporate philanthropy. Companies support nonprofits in order to build strong communities, because it fits with their corporate values and traditions, it's good for their reputation, and quite honestly because it's a good thing to do irrespective of financial return.

The annual Canadian Business and Community Partnership Awards is where such motivation manifests itself in critical, and sometimes life-saving programming. Previous award winners have included the Child Exploitation Tracking System, which is the most advanced anti-child exploitation software tool available anywhere in the world, and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure—the largest one-day, volunteer-led fundraising event in Canada.

how to strengthen the communities in which we work and live

Business has always played a role in partnering with charities, according to Mike Meadows, Senior Manager of Corporate Citizenship at Imagine Canada. In his more than 25 year history as a fundraiser and manager working primarily on partnerships with business, Meadows has seen his share of desperation. "Businesses are not managing these partnerships from the top down," says Meadows. "In many cases, the inspiration and direction for these programs comes from

Best Practices

By
Lisa Hartford

For more than a decade, Imagine Canada has recognized the year's most outstanding collaborations between businesses and community organizations. The annual Canadian Business and Community Partnership Awards celebrates the importance and the impact of good corporate citizenship—the concept of investing in our communities by donating goods and services, by encouraging employees to volunteer, and of course, by contributing financial resources.

What results from good corporate citizenship are best-practice examples of



changing LIVES from THE GROUND UP

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Changing windows, doors and drywall. It's how a home is built. And with Habitat for Humanity, it's how hope is given to families in need. Enbridge is proud of its many employees who volunteer their time to help build the homes that build great communities.

Enbridge is a Canadian leader in energy transportation and distribution. For our complete Corporate Social Responsibility Report visit enbridge.com





Young volunteers recognized through Leadership Richmond



Safe and secure thanks to the Forest Habitat Conservation Initiative



Loading the stores for Drive Away Hunger



"Every year, Judy motivates the team to support us in sustaining caregivers and their loved ones and funding research. Everyone benefits."

Judy Matheson, CEO of the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba



Winners of the Canadian Awards and Community Leadership Awards

Volunteer Richmond Information Services and Coast Capital Savings, for Leadership Richmond

Community need: Volunteer Richmond Information Services saw the need to harness the leadership potential of young adults to serve as board members for local nonprofit organizations, now and into the future.

Partnering for a solution: With the financial and staff support of Coast Capital Savings and the expertise and resources of Volunteer Richmond, the Leadership Richmond program shows the benefits that nonprofits gain from involving youth in their governance, and help youth see the value in being a community leader.

Why it's working: The program has grown to also promote employer-assisted volunteering, helping organizations benefit from the skills and experience of local volunteers aged 30+, and delivering workshops, conferences and volunteer management training to the community. "Coast Capital has been a vision for this partnership now and into the future," according to Elizabeth Specht of Volunteer Richmond Information Services. "Together, we are building a legacy for our community."

The Alberta Conservation Association and Sunco Energy Foundation, for the Forest Habitat Conservation Initiative

Community need: Sunco sought to offset the environmental footprint of their operations by preserving ecologically significant portions of Alberta's boreal forest. Because of its strong track record and considerable experience with conservation, Sunco identified the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) as the perfect partner for the initiative.

Partnering for a solution: Overall, 1,250 acres of boreal habitat have been secured. Today, the Boreal Habitat Conservation Initiative has expanded to identify and conserve valuable landscape on several locations across northern Alberta. The initiative has protected one of the last Great Blue Heron rookeries on Lesser Slave Lake, and has preserved the unique wetland ecosystems on the fringes of the boreal region.

Why it's working: "We've partnered every step of the way, by means of an advisory committee comprised of both partners, to ensure this land is suitable for future generations to enjoy," according to Todd Zimmerman, President and CEO of Alberta Conservation Association.

The Canadian Association of Food Banks, Region Food Bank, Ontario Association of Food Banks and Farm Credit Canada, for Drive Away Hunger

Community need: In any given month, 800,000 Canadians visit a food bank. Many live in rural areas, and almost half are children. Drive Away Hunger started as an idea of a Farm Credit Canada employee, who tackled this need by driving a tractor across mid-western Ontario to fight hunger in his own community.

Partnering for a solution: Drive Away Hunger's goal was to collect at least 100,000 pounds of goods. In 2006, the program collected more than 400,000 pounds of food from across Canada, and enjoyed the support of more than 100 employee volunteers from Farm Credit Canada.

Why it's working: Farm Credit Canada and its partner organizations share responsibility for developing and designing the tour route and planning and outreach. Local food banks weigh, measure and distribute the donated food. Over the last four years, Drive Away Hunger tours have raised almost one million pounds of food. "Farm Credit Canada's commitment ran through the entire organization. All their employees put their heart and soul into connecting with us," says Adam Speiser, Executive Director of the Ontario Association of Food Banks.



Supporting Memory Walk; aiming for a future of better mental health

Community support means the world when you're caring for a loved one

with Alzheimer's. That's what inspired Winnipeg's Judy Matheson when

her mother was diagnosed six years ago. She attended her first Alzheimer Society Memory Walk to raise funds and awareness for the countless Canadians afflicted by this debilitating disease.

Since 2002, the "All-Scotiabank Team" has raised over \$46,000 for the cause, including \$22,000 from the Team Scotiabank Community

Program, which contributes to funds raised by Scotiabank employees. Last year, this dedicated group won the Corporate Spirit Award for the most participants in the walk.

"Our success with fundraising confirms what I experience at work: with a great team anything is possible."

Judy Matheson, Senior Client Relationship Manager

Every day, Scotiabank employees across Canada work to make a difference in their communities. We're proud to support patients and families struggling with memory loss - and help make Alzheimer's history.

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PROOF THAT TEAMWORK PAYS OFF, EVEN IN INDIVIDUAL SPORTS.

At General Motors, we're not content to simply cheer on our athletes. We're committing \$5.2 million to Canada's best. Our GM Making Dreams Possible program awards 10 grants annually of \$10,000 to high performance coaches and their Olympic class athletes. And since world class performance begins with world class coaching, we've partnered with the Coaching Association of Canada to provide 100 grants annually of \$2,000 each to support



coaching development in local communities. In its first year, this national program touched over 5,000 coaches and nearly 70,000 athletes in 115 community clubs. This is all on top of our \$4 million support of the Vancouver 2010, which came to put more Canadians on the podium than any other country during the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games. Visit canadagm.com or call us at 1-877-999-4663 for more information or to learn more.



The Drive is On



Canada's Olympic hopefuls: **No. 1 of a series**



GYMNASTICS, FLOOR EXERCISE, 2004 OLYMPIC CHAMPION, AGE 25

Kyle Shewfelt ROUGH AND TUMBLING

Between now and the Aug. 8 opening of the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing, Macdon's will be profiling some of Canada's most promising—and fascinating—Olympians. A compelling assortment of past champions and newcomers with still unfulfilled dreams. One has a resting heart rate of 38 beats per minute. Another is 30 years old and heading to his first Games. Tales of joy, sweat, and tears.

STORY BY JONATHAN GATHERHOUSE, PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER WANG.

The memory of the good landing, the one that clinched the floor exercise gold that Sunday night in Athens, is still so vivid that Kyle Shewfelt can summon the sensations at will. The momentary pause before the final tuckable, to draw a breath and draw down from the adrenaline rush of an Olympic gymnastics final carry him away. The glow of the bright blue floor as he spun through a double backflip and two twists. The feel of his toes digging in as he struck the mat, landing firm against

the tide of his own momentum. "I had practiced for 15 years, pretending I'm in the Olympics and I have to stick this one," he says. "I kind of grabbed the floor with my legs, and I locked it. It was the most unbelievable feeling, because I knew I had done the best move I could have possibly done, at the same time when it mattered the most."

The memory of the bad landing—the one that could end cost him a chance at another take this summer in Beijing—comes unbidden, most often late at night, just before he drifts to sleep. An Arabian double fount by bed, snipped off in practice five days before the world championships in Stuttgart, Germany, last summer, that went horribly wrong. The threat as Shewfelt's fully extended legs slammed into the mat.

The cracking sound of both his shin bones splitting served as their cue. And the unforfeitable pain of both bones hyperextending, followed hard by shocks and jolts as he lay curled in a fetal position on the gymnasium floor. "It was a real lesson of empathy," he says. "I thought I was higher than I was," he says. "I can play it as slow motion in my head, but it still happened so fast, it was mind-blowing."

spilled out of her home blouse at the run up to Athens that looked like training well kept him out of competition, paled. Then there was the emergence of an *adversarius* opponent, a foe. Not just the nightmarish—visions of dismounting from the rings head first onto the floor—but doctus that began to cripple him during daylight hours as well. In December, long after the breast came off his legs and the crutches were put away, he found himself hoisted to the deck of a hotel pool, unable to converse his way to keep from tripping into the water. Eight months before Beijing, and the Olympic champion still couldn't do the "things you learn in kinder garten."

Shawfelt's blog (<http://shawfelt.blogspot.com>) charts the indignities of recovery. Once-power-

He'll do the real work, he has found in almost every scene of purpose. He was back in the gym before he could walk, doing chin-ups while, weighing 20 to 25 weight less. As his lower-body strength has slowly returned, the workout has expanded and intensified. Three mornings a week of weights. One-legged wall sits, 40 seconds at a time. Endless squats, knee lifts and beer kicks. All in the name of regaining what he once took for granted. "This is my everything right now. There's nothing else in this world right now that's more important to me (than my sport)," he says. "I don't want to look back and have any regrets. If it comes to the end of July and I'm just not ready, it won't be because I didn't put the effort forward, it will be because I am physically not capable."

By early January, he was returning to the mat, wearing rings and high-top, stiff boots by a left leg that won't let him run at full speed—the standard rule

place is orienting his brain
array—but feeling over-
whelmed by gymnast. The
negative thoughts had
been beaten back. The
challenges deftly flipped

more advantage. "Every day is a small victory, and that's inspiring. It's what every athlete dreams of."

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

Why gymnastics? I liked. You know when you're a kid and you try a lot of different sports and one you are super excited to go to every day? That was gymnastics for me.

Do you remember your first computer class? I remember my first year I had to learn every computer.

Promote sport besides your work?
All amateur sports. If I'm home on
Saturday, I'm watching CBC amateur
sport.

When I was a child, I was always a competitive person. On the day of a competition, I really want to win. I like to be in

ed. When I was a kid, my mom became really quickly that on competition day I turned into a little bit of a psycho, focused individual.

Special diet? I eat what I want, when I want to eat it. But I'm a very healthy person.

Guilty pleasure? Everywhere I go in the world, I like to have a Big Mac. It's

a tradition. As the Olympics, McDonald's is right in the village, sarethe I am, I have got right away. Then I can hold off the temptation until the competition.

What is your all-time greatest moment in competition? At the 2002 World I did my first pass at the

because I was super focused on becoming world champion, not the routine. It bubbled.

The secret to surviving on Canada's amateur sport frontier? Live in your parents' house as long as you can.

At left: "as skinny as Nicole Richie's," "being to make his five-speed V8 for his dad's automatic Saturn, and a desire for a companion, who's never felt like a companion before that would return everything to normal." "In my life I'm so used to mentally overcoming any physical problems," he says. "Not this time. Months of halting progress. Stop. Go. Stop. Go—like a childhood game of red light, green light, he admits.

As an athlete, Shewfelt has never lacked drive. At the age of 12, he lashed out a fiery Christmas vacation so he could stay home and train. His greatest teenage rebellion was a decision to quit the sport, which lasted exactly one week. The two months he took off after Athens remain his longest break since he discovered his Olympic dream at the age of five. But in the midst of all the post-



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Waitress:
\$25

Surly waitress:
\$25

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\$4.50

Hair stylist:
\$10

Gas station attendant:
\$4

Sommelier:
\$15

Pizza delivery guy:
\$2

Starbucks barista:
\$1.50

THE TIPPING PLAGUE

Suddenly everyone from the Starbucks barista to the dog walker has his hand out. Blame the decline in shame. BY ANDREW COYNE

help

It is the same way every time. I get up from the chair, check the lady who cut my hair, run my hand appreciatively over my head, turn around, sharing with a friend, toward the cashier. The girl behind the counter cheerily raps up the bill, then nods toward my stylist, now miraculously out of trouble.

"Do you want to add anything to that?"

"No," I say, despondently. But firmly.

I am not a cheapskate. Well, yes I am, but the proof of this is not my refusal to succumb to this insidious but of emotional blackmail.

The quality of the haircut is not in question. The stylist and I are good friends. But the price of the haircut was lower to us both in

advance. I judged it worth paying, and paid it.

If the salon then the price rose too low, they should have the decency to raise it. Put the question to me up front, and I'll consider it.

Don't side up to me afterwards with your hand out, playing upon my sense of guilt.

I wouldn't even mention it, were this scene not about being played out in one form or another across a wider and wider swath of consumer life. It used to be you tipped the waiter, and

the cab driver, and this was about it. If you were a high roller, you tipped the bellhop, if only because you stayed in the kind of place that employed bellhops. (Perhaps even they tipped their butlers. Or perhaps it began when men started going to "spoons.")

But lately, the practice has spread to hitherto unknown corners of the economy. Did you know you were supposed to tip your masseuse? Also your restaurant, your tattoo artist, and your personal trainer. Not only can baby-sitters expect to find a little extra in their pay nowadays, but also dog walkers. And that's just the start. Your guides. Disc jockeys. Taxi cab drivers. Delivery people of all persuasions. Some credulous souls tip the parking attendant. And, everywhere you turn, the ubiquitous tip cup, a Starbucks creation, is now a fixture of every hotel bar and doughnut shop, no matter how perfunctory the service. There are even reports of tip jars at drive-throughs.

Once a warmhearted symbol of a gilded age, the custom is now the leechlight, tapping a more or less hollow dollar industry. Whole books are given over to the practice. Tourist guides devote page after page to educating

the waiters on the customary tip for various occasions, just to make sure they're not oversteering by failing to pay the going rates. It is unlikely that two of the waiters in the room agree on what those rates are. In retail prices, however, 15 percent for your waiter, or have us somehow graduated to 16 percent? Should you tip the pump jockey at the gas station? (Really? When was the last time you saw one?) Nearly a century ago, an arm of medicine class etiquette and social status anxiety, *Society* Post on the very dead. Each first-class passenger on boarding ship, the worst, should give "ten shillings to the room steward or stewardess, ten shillings to the dining-room steward, ten shillings to the deck steward, ten shillings to the lounge steward," and so on. ("Or if you have seen your meals on deck, you give 10 shillings to the deck steward, and ten to the waiter, and you give five to the bar steward." What, and have nothing left to blow on cocaine?) It seems we have not changed after all.

Among the many annoying qualities of this peculiar snobbish habit is its use as an action-reaction. If the Starbucks barista qualifies for a tip just for pouring a half-cold beer over your head, why not the kid who makes your therapy

help

at the 7? Besser? Why pass down bad information? Why the shoe shiner, but not the driver? Why the bartender, but not the person who washes your face? (Or, maybe that's just me.) Why not they chop, or mechanics, or dentists? Why not flight attendants, if personal service is the ideal? Why not? Let me suggest a reason. Maybe it's because it's beneath them.

A moment's thought reveals the moral foundations of the business. Equal parts beggary and bribery, with a strong substrate of extortion, tipping rarely engages any of the higher sentiments.

The big tipper may hope to impress his date, or the waitress, or ideally both, or he may be seeking, via a discreet C-note to the waitress, to jump the queue, or some other preferential treatment. More usually, he does it out of fear of being thought cheap, or to avoid nasty rants. If generosity ever creeps in to it, it quickly dissolves into self-congratulation.

The tipper, for his part, accepts the modest not-out-of-gratitude, but-of-kindness, if it is a large tip, or resentment, if it is not. Actively, now the resentment either way, since the big tip carries with it

an implicit assertion of class superiority. "There's for your pains, and are that those loaves we wanted?" Not is that the only unspoken agenda in that. Everyone who's ever worked in a restaurant knows that the prettiest, most famous waitresses get the biggest tips, at least from male customers, since at the back of his mind every man thinks if she throws down big he improves his chances of scoring—maybe not with her, but in some cosmic reckoning, with women-kind—and at the back of her mind every waitress knows it. So too in a whiff of prostitution, for good measure.

It isn't because waiters (or manicurists, or consultants, or...) are ill paid that they tip. If anything, they are ill paid because of the prevalence of tipping—because both they and their employers know that part of their compensation will be delivered by this strange, informal activity. In places where tipping is forbidden, or unenforced, such as Arabias, or Argentina, or Japan, or much of western Europe, there is no shortage of wait staff at the going wage.

Certainly there is little evidence that tipping is related to the quality of service. McDonald's, upon whose gleaming counters no one perches, arguably has the best service in the business. Michael Flynn of the Car-

nell School of Hotel Administration—with dozens of peer-reviewed papers to his name, including "Effect of Server Presence in Restaurant Tipping" and "Microeconomic and Psychological Aspects of Tipping: A Cross-Country Study," but in the address adopted Will and Ariel Durant of tipping studies—has found tipping to be more closely correlated with a range of server behaviors, all through the effect, if not the intent, of making the patron feel the server likes him. Some, such as smiling or saying the patron's name, are fairly obvious. Others are less so. That friendly waiter who squirts by your table to take your order? Flynn's studies show an average 20 to 25 per cent increase in tips from that one, slightly emboldened tipper. Tell a joke, another 40 per cent. Touch the customer, draw a "smiley face" on the bill, leave a

your lap for you (seemingly discarded, perhaps an account of incest?)

So if it serves no useful purpose, if it is rewarded merely by nice, if it rewards both parties to the transaction, why does tipping persist? Why has it, in fact, spread? Tipping was, after all, supposed to have been on the way out. For much of the last century, it had seemed to be in decline, along with many of the manual service jobs that went with it—barkeepers, floorwalkers, men's room attendants—to be replaced by cashiers, by clerks, by the customer's own labour.

Capitalist efficiency seemed, in its own way, to be making for a kind of social equality: the caprice of industry, as much as the caprice of men, was being harnessed. Tipping, outside of its traditional preserves (the practice originated in 17th-century English pubs, as an one of keeping the waiters from assisting the patrons), came to be regarded as something rather exotic, the vestige of things reserved either to luxury hotels or Third World locations.

To be sure, the rapid growth in income at the upper end of the scale has brought with it a revival of personal service jobs.

But that is not enough to explain the current outbreak of tipping. Rather, I think it has more to do with the decline of shame in a social regulator. Indeed, these days an absence of shame is one of the surest ingredients of success. It would explain the entire career of Richard Simmons, for example. Most people, in most occupations, would think it an insult to be offered a "little something extra" for the service they normally perform, will less think to ask for it. That is, until the offer was actually made—until it was "customary." That, by degrees, is perishingly much gentler.

Tipping should perhaps be seen as a sort of social epidemic, like squabs kids—who are, after all, only willing to be tipped for the service they perform. It exists because we tolerate it, it spreads because it can. It does not exist in every society, and it is not inevitable. In it just now we all said "No?" ■

Much of the 'service' we don't even want: like the perky 'how's everything?' just as you've filled your face

easily on the tip tray, some thing. Oddly enough, even regarding the customer's positive effect, it does a disservice of good waiter.

Tipping might provide more of an incentive for good service if customers actually applied the principle in both directions. But be honest: if the food was lousy, and the service worse, does anyone actually omit the tip? Do you even reduce it? Or do you sink silently from the place, fuming abused and exploited, yet angry at yourself for being such a misquitter? For that matter, much of the "service" we pay for may be of us might prefer to do without: that strange insistence on performing the specials, rather than just printing them up on a piece of paper (is it because they're all unemployed actors?), the sudden, perky "how's everything?" just as you've filled your face, or that gleeful phase when waiters were placing your glassy face



MOST IMPROVED

BETHANY SPEARS

The increasingly famous actress that first Miss Whitney Spears on the reality of her kids and control of their fortune have largely vanished. In addition to ditching the pink wig and the fake British accent, Spears even got a tattoo inked off her neck. And last week she shed a quest spot on the CBS sitcom *How I Met Your Mother*. Not only did she show up prominently at 7:30 a.m. but, according to actor Josh Radnor, "Bethany knew how to be better than I know it."

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RYAN PHILLIPPE plays a war hero who goes AWOL in *Texas* after he's ordered back to Iraq even though his military duty is up

Fresh from Iraq—soldiers gone wild

The director of 'Boys Don't Cry' makes an anti-war movie that dares to entertain

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON • In his opening monologue in the October movie, *Boys Don't Cry*, director Steven Soderbergh tells us about the Iraq war like a friend at a bar. "But I'm telling you," he said, "if we stay the course and keep these moves in the theater, we can turn this around. Withdrawing the Iraq moves would only embolden the audience. We cannot let the audience win!" Soderbergh's dark joke speaks to the fear that, although the Iraq war has reached the big screen much faster than Vietnam, movies were to reach it. And no wonder. *Boys* was movie, like *RoboCop* and *In the Valley of the Elah* are guns, action and war—more pacifist than criterion event. The Iraq war is still waiting for its *Dear Hunter*, *Apocalypse Now* or *Crash* (like *Boys* with *Stop-Loss*, it's now one step closer).

This tale of a decorated soldier in the first movie about the Iraq conflict that doesn't play like a sermon or a eulogy. Equal parts protest and patriotism, it's an intimate movie that ignites as a rugged combat picture then flies into a high-octane road movie.

Ryan Phillippe runs as *Blindside*, a homecoming war hero who goes AWOL in *Texas* after he's "stop-loss"—ordered back to Iraq even though his military duty is up. While his brothers in arms struggle to reintegrate, *Blindside* goes on the run, with his best friend's girl (Julia Carmichael) behind the wheel. This is a testosterone-fueled pursuit of blood, love, war, danger and young men who have been pushed beyond the pale: soldiers, boys gone wild. But it's directed by Steven Soderbergh—making his first foray into directing his career's decade gap with *Boys Don't Cry*, his Oscar-winning film about another tormented male: cancer *Stranger*.

Stop-Loss came out of their own experience.

In an interview with *Maximize* last week, Perce recalled watching the Twin Towers fall from her Manhattan balcony on Sept. 11. Not long after, she decided to make a movie about young Americans volunteering for the war on terror. Then, to her horror, her 18-year-old brother signed up and was shipped to Iraq in 2001. Perce, 46, found herself wired to him, and the war, through intense messaging. Meanwhile, with a documentary in mind, the movie was returning soldiers. And when her brother came home on leave with hours of combat video shot by GIs, she realized this was a war like no other.

"The soldiers put links consumer video cameras on a gun turret, or aimed them on a Humvee or their helmet," says Perce. "They'd bring the footage back to the barracks and cut it to portable music. Or hard-core rock. To me it was an anthropological find—that MTV/YouTube generation of soldiers filming themselves as a combat zone."

Perce, who stars real and simulated soldiers in her movie, is not the first director to tap into the phenomenon. *Black*, based on a real-life army by U.S. troops in Iraq, relies heavily on the device. And the plot of *In the Valley of the Elah* hinges on images shot by a soldier's cellphone camera. But Perce's connection to the war goes deeper than Iraq; her brother sent messages her

the story of a decorated soldier who was stop-loss by the army after he'd finished his service and wanted to go home to his family. Perce estimates that 11,000 soldiers have been stop-loss, victims of what has been called a "back door draft." Her brother would have been among them if he hadn't received a medical discharge—he was injured from logging heavy weaponry in house raids.

Perce, who scrapped her documentary to make a drama, says, "I fell in love with this emblematic story of America. A guy goes up after 9/11 for what he considers all the right reasons. He's gone over there with his best friend. When they get there, they realize it's not about what they signed up. It's about the guy to your left and the guy to your right."

Like everyone who makes a war movie, Perce was seduced by notions of masculinity and camaraderie. Creating composite characters, she surrounded her hero with a fiery band of brothers—from the best friend (Channing Tatum) who chooses another corner of duty over his future, to the mother hen (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) who is best by default. Yet until all the scenes, *Stop-Loss* has the look of a sequel shooter, and the momentum of a movie video. Which may explain why MTV was promoting the movie with *Perce*. "It was a great find from *War II or Vietnam*," says Perce. "I want to tell a story that is fundamentally different, a story of our generation." But the MTV promotion ready to watch an MTV war? ■



WE'RE STALKING GEORGE CLOONEY

An executive producer, David Zaslav is openly planning with the army actor to return to the TV show that made him a star, for the medical drama's 30th and final season. While NBC's fingers are crossed, the one event that Clooney has said is as close to a date about to be auctioned off by the Boys & Girls Club of America for charity. Seems they never asked Clooney in the first place. The organizers of the auction promptly argued and



"WEATHER GIRLS" have been largely phased out—they've been replaced by men in suits who aren't pretty but have gravitas.

If there's a bad storm, it's your fault

Today's weather coverage focuses on how you affect the weather, rather than vice versa

BY JIMIE J. WEINMAN • When you think about weather, you probably think about the depressing and unpredictable conditions we've been having lately in Canada. When the Weather Channel's John Coleman droned about weather, he droned about it as a political issue. Coleman, who founded the U.S. cable network after deciding that mainstream network shows didn't take weather seriously enough, is no longer affiliated with the station, but he was influential about it recently appeared at the International Conference on Climate Change (organized to discuss the idea that the climate is changing) and warned upon his creation now has a full-time climatologist to talk about what he calls "the threat of global warming." What he used to be a writer of looking out the window or watching a woman on TV pointing to images of clouds for global warming, and the polarized debate over how big a problem it is and what's causing it, has changed all that. Now a weather forecaster has the most controversial position in journalism. What Coleman has nothing on your local meteorologist.

Today's weather coverage focuses on how you affect the weather, rather than how we affect it. The website of The Weather Network, Canada's elite weather specialists, has a special page for climate change where their words we hear are "the climate is changing and we're partially to blame." That's the view of many weather broadcasters, particularly since the situation coverage of hurricane Katrina in 2005 that we, by helping to cause global warming, might have helped cause the situation that the weather forecasters are covering. It might have been so expected that people would get upset at hearing their TV blaming them for storms and floods, but instead, it

got them more interested. Heidi Collins, the Weather Channel dramatist who provided John Coleman's wealth, told the *New York Times*' Thomas Friedman that after Katrina was linked to global warming, viewers reacted that "suddenly the weather was potentially our fault." There's nothing like a feeling of personal involvement to get people invested in a television show, whether it's rooting for their favorite American idol or feeling guilty about their own responsibility for global warming, people prefer to watch TV when they have something at stake.

The trouble is that global warming isn't just another climate problem, it's a political issue. Even since weather broadcasters started talking about it, they've been called toxic of the liberal media. James Inhofe, the top Republican on the Senate environmental committee, said that "hyping global warming to attract viewers" is "what would happen to the Weather Channel's ratings if people weren't so easily ignored?" And it's not just the Weather Channel. Good Morning America weatherman Sam Champion was ostracized by the conservative media site *NewsHour* for saying that global warming would cause an increase in hurricanes and heat waves. If proved, the site declared, "that even the weatherman can be biased." Now that weather is taken seriously, weather-

men get the same charges of political bias that their news coasts routinely get.

TV stations take weather so seriously that they're phasing out the "weather girl," the attractive women who traditionally did forecasts on local shows. Though very weather presenters are still celebrities in Europe—the recent death of Trish Willmetson, one of the BBC's first weather girls, was big news in England—in North America, they've been replaced by guys in suits who aren't pretty but have gravitas. In the new environment, the qualifications for reading the weather are the same as those for reading the news. Maybe more so, while anyone can read news without many qualifications—unless you think CBS hired Katie Couric for her much-mixed record of work being journalistic—weathermen are on authority when it comes to rain and snow.

Even popular culture has bowed before new reality. A character on *Angie's Ashes*, Nancy Gribble, spent most of the series as the local TV weather girl, but she's been replaced by a meteorologist and moved to a less important position, that of news anchor. Of course, with any new TV development, the change in the weather has created nostalgia for the old days. Coleman, whose speech included a call to "face the people who sold carbon credits," said he longed for forecasters to "stop telling us what to think." But that's our likely so happens. Not unless we go back to the days when news was serious and weather was fun, instead of the other way around. ■



Who knew?

In **70%** of cases genital herpes is transmitted when there are no visible signs or symptoms.*

I'm very careful, and I always thought I was doing everything possible to protect my girlfriend from genital herpes. But when I learned that I could be contagious even when I don't have symptoms, I was shocked.

I asked my doctor, and he explained that genital herpes is transmitted through something called viral shedding. Too small to be seen, viral shedding can happen anytime, anywhere in the "boxer short" area of my body. Thanks to my doctor I now know that I can do more to reduce my risk of passing it on.



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 "This is the most embarrassing thing to happen to a governor, I guess, since Arnold Schwarzenegger and Khloé Kardashian." —Jay Leno
 "Not surprisingly, clients come through alright were Charlie Sheen." —Cowan O'Brien
 "It's sad. Spitzer said there is so much left unknown—Amber, Ashley, Rhonda." —David Letterman

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*Based on a clinical study performed by the use of spreading genital herpes (HSV-1) in patients with genital herpes. The study was funded by a private foundation and was conducted by researchers who also worked on the production of the film. Caution was taken to ensure that the study was conducted in a safe and secure environment.

IF LIBRARIANS don't adapt to their customers' changing demands, they'll find themselves without anyone to offer a music collection to

Don't blame your public library

Librarians would like to offer digital pop music—but the big labels aren't co-operating

BY KEVIN DONOHUE • Unfortunately for the thousands of Canadians who borrow music from the library, the days of flipping through a library's CD collection could be numbered. In 2007, the Toronto Public Library saw music checkouts decline by seven per cent, while the Winnipeg Public Library saw its numbers drop by just this past year. The reason? More people are finding music online.

Like retail music stores, which saw a 36 per cent fall in sales in 2007, librarians are finding that their music offerings are slowly becoming obsolete. Contributing to the decline is CD usage by offering a digital alternative is expected to take months, if not years. Unlike major labels and record stores that have seen their figures dramatically drop over the last few years, the digital revolution has yet started to affect libraries, so they're far behind the curve. In fact, not every Canadian library has access to digital—the Vancouver Public Library saw its music circulation numbers increase by nearly 25,000 checkouts last year. Still, the VPL isn't turning a blind eye to the inevitable.

"When you're in the library as long as I have been, we hear the sound of your footsteps," says Chris Middleman, the VPL's manager of the fine arts and history divisions. "Digital is where the public expects it to end up."

The problem right now isn't that librarians don't want to offer their patrons a transition to the physical CD—if anything they found out how quickly sales change when DVDs became popular—or that there's no easy way for them to provide digital music. Librarians are in the business of developing software and offering software from record labels, so they have to turn to another company, like Ohio-based OverDrive, to do the dirty work. Many Canadian libraries already pay

OverDrive to access its downloadable audiobook and classical music catalogue, but so far, the company offers nothing in the way of mainstream pop music.

Why not? Big labels like Universal Music and Sony BMG, who have been notoriously slow to react to the changing industry, have yet to jump on board. "The majors are too busy doing other stuff," says a Toronto MacArthur Foundation fellow, who is a former MacArthur Foundation fellow, who is a former MacArthur Foundation fellow, who is a former MacArthur Foundation fellow.

Tapping into new listeners is the main motivation behind Network's decision to license its songs to OverDrive. "It's another segment of the population that you would be making music available to, and how many libraries are there across North America?" Arbo also rhetorically. "That sounds like a good thing to me."

Why the labels continue to stall is the big question (Universal and EMI executives wouldn't comment), but it's likely they're still too busy worrying about filling retail sales to put libraries on their priority list. Arden Sternbach, a starting professor of music at New York University, says it's not just

about missing change—labels have never lived the idea of making their catalogues freely available. "Labels have usually fought librarians in the past on this, and fortunately they lost," he says.

The hesitation to embrace libraries stems from the age-old problem of piracy—people borrow CDs and copy the music at home—but these collections also help create fresh markets as people discover new music. With OverDrive, the industry would actually be protected from overexposed catalogs, as the "checked out" audio files are programmed to lock up after about two weeks on a computer or MP3 player.

Other issues, such as digital rights management, which OverDrive uses to lock up music files, also slowing down the transition from physical to digital. "DMG prevents tracks from being transferred to an iPod, and that's something the libraries were changed before they push ahead with pop music downloads."

It's anyone's guess now when a library lover will be able to borrow the latest Carly Rae Jepsen disc without tickling to their nearest branch. One thing's for certain, though: If libraries, like retail stores and labels, don't adapt to their customers' changing demands, they'll find themselves without anyone to offer a music collection to. "Are we paranoid?" asks Middleman. "Yes, but we reacted with every single format change. But I can't see us not shifting to digital, because that's certainly where people are going to go." ■



ASHLEY DUPRÉ...HAS SOMETHING TO SAY

If you wanna take me out after the club / You gotta do it right, baby / Show me some love / See, moving things to where I'm at / Show your game up so you can be a performer / Break up against me and whisper in my ear / Make me feel what you want to feel / Mumble to the touch, whisper your love / Let's hit the dance floor / Turn it up inside...—From *Move Ya Body*, the second self-released single by Elliot Spitzer's protégé high-pitched hooker

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL KATZ

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Double gold, hold the anchovies

For the social set who can't afford the soaring price of bullion, there's gold-topped pizza

BY ANNE KINGSTON • Amid the tension of the volatile gold market—the price jumped to a new high of \$1,000 an ounce last week—one case of calm remains: The price of the country's only 24k gold-topped pizza stayed steady at \$108 for a large “Ober Sausen” at Toronto’s Mage Oven, purveyor of “art games,” “vegan” and “dairy-free” pizzas. The meek substance (purchased at an art-supply store) glazes a stop organic chicken, salmon, grilled veggie bits, cheese and herbs, a cornucopia of ingredients that compensates for the fact that the metal itself is both edifiable and tasteless.

Mage has been gilding food with gold ever since opening at the meekie hardware store pure store. A recipe for Golden Fish in Jelly can be found in Elizabeth Stalford’s 1969 domestic primer *The Experienced English Housekeeper*. Gold Fishes have been suspended in liquor for centuries, precursors of the noble dace and/or Goldfishbowl. In the late 1800s, renowned Italian chef Giuliano Marchetti attended the culinary world with his *Pao* or a saffron-cake rhino alla Milano adorned with gold leaf aqua. He was ultimately killed with gold leaf aqua. He was ultimately killed with gold leaf aqua.

Now, with the gold price in orbit, a new genre of gold rush is upon us. Possessing the stuff of Versailles and the rubies of Paris Hilton, gold is the new go to improver for publicity seekers. When F. Duane & Son, the U.S.’s oldest family-owned precious metals firm, wanted to create blue arena fireworks for its 125th anniversary in 2006, it produced the “city’s most expensive moment” made from gold-washed, high-end champagne and gold fish bottled in a fancy cellophane jar for more than \$10,000—then \$150 per slice of

pizza. Last month, the *Daily Mail* reported Australian pop princess Kylie Minogue celebrated her victory at the Brit Awards at London’s posh Mondria bar with a \$15,000 cocktail—Louis XIII cognac, half a bottle of Cristal Rose champagne, bottles, brown sugar and claps of 24k gold leaf, complete with an 18k diamond ring in the bottom of the glass. If the price doesn’t sufficiently convey its luxury, two caviar guards accept pay the drink from eating to delivery.

The meekie being targeted by the hype, of course, can’t afford to boost the actual bullion, like *Baywatch* Douglas as The O.C. who requests “more fishes” in his Goldenfish Bar. But they may be willing to accept an 18k bottle of Habsburg House’s “Gold” as a substitute. It’s a house wine in Goldenfish (Playboy/Maroon). Small surprise: it’s also with swirling gold being the talk of the 2007 International Food, Drink and Hospitality Conference in New Delhi last October. It’s a brilliant idea to cultivate a new market in India, where consumers are familiar with decorative gold leaf.

It was his childhood in India, he says, that inspired Mage Oven founder Kyle Salsbery to garnish pizza with gold leaf. The 48-year-old grew up amid scores of 19th-century nobles throwing a gold coin in the cooking

pot, then later reworking the chef’s will. As aptly befitting from seven branches created by an Ayurvedic practitioner with an expensive medicine consisting gold fishes.

After immigrating to Canada in 1986, he worked at a cousin’s restaurant, then for a major pizza chain where he heard customers griping about grease and hermit toppings. In 1997, with his wife, Abby, he opened Mage Oven as a pizza alternative. Cakes are made with organic spelt. All of “Pharmaceutical” boasts antioxidant benefits. Wine prevents (The anti-free food code extends out to the delivery vehicle, with times of over an hour are common.) Catering to the local audience, food-alternative and marginously obsessed has grown business. Now with five outlets, the Salsberys plan to franchise 30 stores in the next five years.

Gold leaf was added to the menu four years ago, more as a conversation starter than for the putative health benefits, says Salsbery, though both gold and silver are named by Ayurvedic medicine for their aphrodisiac value. Then gold’s doubling in price forced it off the menu as a standard ingredient. Each large \$108 “Ober Sausen” pizza (prequelers five \$7 gold-leaf slices placed just go on the pizza when it comes out of the oven).

Efforts to gold-topped pizzas are not a fad. Most are delivered to corporations and buyers releasing major deals, perfect proof of the Mideast’s. Which means the gold pizza market is also booming, for now. ■

TODAY’S SPECIAL • CAVITY-FIGHTING LOLLIPOPS

Having introduced 10,000 lollipops in one shot of 2,000 medicinal herbs, Intergalactic Inc. a micro-business at UCLA, has developed a cavity-fighting lollipop with Lacta. While most lollipops in stores are artificially flavored and packed with sugar, this lollipop contains natural lemon and orange flavors and sugar-free. For best results, the recommends two lollipops a day for 10 days, every five minutes (a 20 lollipop dose costs US\$10).



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE KINGSTON FOR ELLE MAGAZINE



THE BABY BELLY flex! and belly scans reduce stretch marks, a then treatments are designed for tired, pregnant women's legs

Your baby's ultrasound set to Elvis

At this pregnancy spa, a customized Fetal Tour scan is just one of the attractions

BY AME KOSHER • “The very first ‘BabyBelly’ flex! I performed was a fun one,” says Son Vaso spa manager Jennifer Harding. “The mother had just had an ultrasound and found out she was having a girl. It seems that every one we meet, including the baby!” Harding says when she started the endeavor, “the baby was kicking and punching the entire time.” In a world of increasingly highly priced luxury spa treatments, welcome to Vancouver’s Son Vaso Urban Ultrasound Spa and Wellness Centre—which was itself a Canadian first pregnancy spa.

A signature treatment, the Baby Belly flex! is designed to monitor for a growing belly while reducing the appearance of stretch marks. The Leg Garden treatment, a massage performed with a unique and manual, is another popular service, ideal for tired, pregnant women’s legs. Many of the spa’s participants bring their own gowns to a new series of ensembles and bathrobes may be given, leading, for instance, to some unexpected changes in the body, such as hair where there didn’t used to be any. And so Son Vaso offers laser hair removal (in a special room outfitted with a handbar and flat screen TV) to take your mind off the proceedings.

But the top attraction of the Son Vaso, which takes place in a room that looks like a cool beachfront pad, was for the high-tech ultrasound machine. This is where couples to recline on an adjustable bed with chips, white sheets, wearing the 42 inch placenta scans on which they’ve been having a great baby’s first belly scan. “We wanted to find out the gender of our baby,” says Kara Wirt, whose second child, a girl, was born at the end of February. Not only did she

and her husband get that answer, “but we got to see the baby really clearly.” Wirt, who was 32 weeks along, says “We could see her legs and her nose and her profile.” She and her husband could also see her hands and feet, and that the baby had a heart. And obviously, “we saw the baby’s legs, so we knew she was a girl.” Wirt says the best part about it, besides the spa-like surroundings, was that a male her and her husband “felt like we’re not just parents and we could have her, and she was connected.”

“If you look at a lot of the clinics in town, they’re very medical and sterile,” says Adrienne Reagen, 36, director of medical services and Son Vaso, which is currently in its third year. Reagen, who is currently in residence at the University of British Columbia’s faculty of medicine, with plans to specialize in radiology. Kyle, recently completed his research degree at St. Bonaventure University. “We wanted to do something that wasn’t strictly medical,” says Adrienne, “and we wanted to make sure that women’s health, healthy eating, pregnancy is ‘in’ in this city as well—your son or daughter is healthy.”

Wirt says she got a DVD and CD from their ultrasound session, along with two printed photos, says Kyle Reagen, 32, director of corporate relations. (The 30-minute scan is \$150, adding on a CD, DVD and photos—the Vaso upgrade—is an extra \$15.) All the scans

are administered by professional sonographers. Clients can bring their own music (they can ask that the machine be switched to a simple heartbeat mode. It’s not something they want to hear to growing mothers).

The standard ultrasound done at most Canadian hospitals results in a 2-D and blurry images, so it’s often hard to see what’s what. With ultrasound technology now capable of producing lifelike 3-D images, a recent nine-dimensional prenatal imaging can give parents a clearer window on their baby. “We have screens placed where a growing trend, but we wanted to take away the clinical feel, put it with spa treatments, and make pregnancy more of a celebration,” says Adrienne, who is currently in residence at the University of British Columbia’s faculty of medicine, with plans to specialize in radiology. Kyle, recently completed his research degree at St. Bonaventure University. “We wanted to do something that wasn’t strictly medical,” says Adrienne, “and we wanted to make sure that women’s health, healthy eating, pregnancy is ‘in’ in this city as well—your son or daughter is healthy.”

The brothers plan to expand their services across Canada. “Right now,” says Kyle, “we’re doing research. Depending on where birth rates are peaking, that’s where our next location will be.” ■



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT • LEONA HELMSLEY’S DUOS

Collectors who wish they could own the late Helen Mirren’s skin suit—the one she wore when she played Helen Mirren in the 2006 film *The Queen*—are in luck. The suit is expected to fetch \$100,000. In the lot are 250 pairs of size 8½ Fendi shoes, along with ball gowns, skirts and suits. Says the auctioneer: “They’re wonderful and people could never have them today.” Proceeds will go to charity.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE KINGSTON FOR ELLE MAGAZINE

DAVID BORDEN PLAYER

1991-2008

He was tough and fearless, even after that first near-fatal crash left him with a fragile skull

David Borden Player was born in Medicine Hat, Alta., on May 23, 1961, the second of three brothers (Drew is the oldest, Philip the youngest). Raised by their mother, Kimberley Player, the boys grew up in "the flats," the city's downtown area. "It was horrible," Drew says. "But we always took care of each other. We always stuck together."

At 16, Drew and David were inseparable. When his brother was a toddler, Drew would often be a "crazy caregiver" to the back of his bicycle and drug young David around the neighborhood. Later, when David was old enough to try riding on his own, it was Drew who gave him his first push. "He pedaled like a horse and he had straight-on pain," Drew recalls. "Accident May that just followed him everywhere." One afternoon, David scored his bike between two parked cars and struck into the middle of incoming traffic. He spent a week in the hospital.

In Grade 8, David and his family packed up U-Haul trailer and moved out to the Pembroke area, in Ontario. He was the only kid in his class with a sister (Olie, Garfield's comic-strip sidekick, covered his right shoulder—the first of many indications to close on his face frame). As a teenager, David loved all sorts of music—country, hip-hop, punk rock. But heavy metal was his favorite. He was a decent guitar player himself, and not a bad singer, either. "That would dream," says Woody Dunford, his close friend. "He always wanted to be in the band." Before they were famous, David often seemed to the members of Three Days Grace, a chart-topping metal band from nearby Norwood, Ont.

His friends would also come to Party Skate Bama, where David and his friends would play after riding their bikes up and down the half-pipe. David was a natural—fearless and energetic. "He was a risk taker," says Jason Mordt, a close friend. "I know he did all the big stunts, and everyone stopped to watch him." His family can barely recall a time when he wasn't recovering from a broken wrist or a sprained ankle. Once, David was so injured he got back on his board that he cut open the cast on his broken foot.

But his skateboarding injuries were more cuts and bruises compared to what happened in 2006, when David fell asleep at the wheel while driving home from a late-night party. His beloved car—a metallic

green 1996 Chevy Malibu—struck him a rock out on the side of a rural road. "He should have perished in that crash," his mother says. Amazingly, David climbed out of the wreckage, hunched to his brother's house, and fell asleep on the living room floor. "The next morning, Drew found him lying in a pool of blood. Doctors performed reconstructive surgery on his feet, closing open lacerations from ear to ear and inserting a metal mesh to keep the bones

in place. A few days later, David was back on his skateboard, urging friends to study the small steel screws underneath his toes. "My brother has been through hell and back," Drew says. "It's truly the toughest man I have ever known in my life."

He was tough with his fists, too. David drew—and took—his fair share of punches. "He never went looking for trouble, but it always seemed to find him," Jason says. After the car accident, though, David was content to avoid confrontation. The doctors repeatedly warned him that his fragile skull might not be able to take another blow. "Everybody knew he was not to be hit in the head," Wendy says. "A three-year-old could have knocked him out."

David was no saint. He dabbled in hard drugs, including crack cocaine, and he enjoyed his beer but he worked as hard as he put. After high school, he took a job at a Bingham company, then as a landscaper. His bosses always

loved him, and so did everyone else. He knew hundreds of people, or at least it seemed that way. "If he was your friend, he was your friend 100 per cent," says Jason Mordt, one of his many pals. In August, David made a bold decision: he moved back to Medicine Hat. Struggling with drug addiction and anxieties for a career change, he found a fresh start in the city of his childhood, working as a corporate rep for a mobile home construction company. "He was quite proud of himself," says Gloria Mazon, a distant family friend. "He was doing a lot better, and he did it on his own."

On Feb. 18, a Thursday, David was hanging out with some friends. Police are still investigating the details, but this crash is clear: at 9:30 p.m., David was standing near the edge of a sidewalk when another person struck him in the head. He fell onto the road, unconscious from the blow. As he lay there, a passing car ran him over. ■

BY MICHAEL FRESCOLANTI



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